



THAT'S A GOOD ONE

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MACLEAN'S

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**YOU SMOKE, OR DRINK.
YOU EAT TOO MUCH. DO YOU
DESERVE THE SAME MEDICAL
CARE AS EVERYONE ELSE?
SOME DOCTORS SAY NO P.34**



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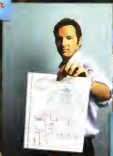


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Who's the worst? Some March argues that George W. Bush may be the worst president in 300 years. That's a controversial claim to differ. Follow the debate and have your say. www.macleans.ca/bush44
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'Just when we were mending fences with the U.S., Maclean's had to jump on the anti-American bandwagon'

POSITIVELY BUSH LEAGUE

I AFFLICTED Steve Maclean's cover story on George W. Bush ("The worst president in 100 years?", April 17). From our travels it has been apparent to my wife and me that Bush has actually damaged the hard-earned goodwill that the U.S. had in almost all corners of the world. We still have a strong affection and respect for the U.S. from most countries, but the Bush administration continues to act as a road-wilder on the goodwill movie. We have just returned from Asia and two Middle Eastern countries, and the media in those places were almost all positive in their writing on comments on the Bush regime. They reported that America would be best served putting its own house in order instead of trying to impose its views, by force and bullying tactics, on the rest of the world. The U.S. is a free country with great people, and definitely deserves better moral leadership.

Doug Bullock, Guelph, Ont.

ALTHOUGH MY WIFE never a media favourite, surely President Bush deserves a fair, unbiased look in his record. With Iraq, he only took on what earlier presidents had refused to deal with—a massive and persistent of enormous wealth willing to finance terror against Western nations, especially America. Although it is now time to bring the troops home, consider if they hadn't gone here at the first place. Imagine a showdown with trigger happy ardent Iraq and a psycho-propagandist U.S. agenda in Iraq. What's not clear to everyone today, history will prove that Bush was right on Iraq.

Ray Rogers, London, Ont.

JURIN B. LEEZEE, Skip the past 100 years part. George Bush is the worst U.S. president ever. Mary West, Ketchikan, Alaska

JUST WHEN we were beginning to mend fences with the United States, we lost friends and trading partners, and just having shed the dark memories of Lachine, Maclean's has to jump on the anti-American bandwagon with an over-the-top over-the-top Canadian journalism can achieve a higher standard.

Kris Page, Scarborough, Ont.

THE BUSH GOVERNMENT is determined to shut down or shut up any dissenting voices

in the media and in government. With its messages of respect of mass destruction and evil crimes hiding around every corner, that government perpetuates fear in order to keep the American people terrorized and therefore agreeing to any of the draconian measures it wants to impose. The U.S. economy is in shambles. If you think the daily plight of New Orleans was unbearable, stay tuned. The ranks of the poor wife U.S. are about to grow much larger and much poorer.

Nancy Kneading, Oshawa, Ont.



THOSE WHO CRITICIZE Bush fail to credit him, Dick Cheney and Karl Rove with their greatest achievement: ensuring a second term by attacking Iraq. Everyone knows American don't charge presidents during a war. Thousands of dead, wounded and maimed are a small price to pay for such intensive strategy thinking.

Guy P. French, Toronto

PRAISE FOR OUR TROOPS

AFTER READING your comments about the dedication of Sgt. 1st Class John Thomas Stone and Pte. Robert Costall ("On 31, one 22, shoulder to shoulder," from the Editors, April 10), I felt compelled to write. It is men and women like that who have protected millions like me to live free from fear of war. I am thankful to them. They are performing duties that are going to make a difference in the world. My thoughts go out to all the families for whom a day does not

pass without worry for their loved ones, and I extend my condolences to the families of Sgt. Stone and Pte. Costall.

Steve Adams, Long Beach, Ont.

IT WAS WITH great sadness that I read about Sgt. Stone's death alongside Pte. Robert Costall in Afghanistan. I had the pleasure of meeting Stone during the summer of 1999 in Tbilisi, Telavi. Like most falls in Telavi during the summer, he was just passing through on his way from Alaska. The difference? Stone was walking. From Alaska to Vietnam. And that was the first long trek he had been on. Tom had walked across large sections of America and China before that. He said walking was perfectly rewarding in its detail, pace and scope. He had seen more of Canada than most Canadians, and he certainly opened my eyes to a whole new way of experiencing the world. Walk on, Tom, and thank you for slowing down the world.

Mont Wood, Calgary

IGNATIEFF'S IDENTITY

IN HIS INTERVIEW with Liberal leadership hopeful Michael Ignatieff (April 18), Peter C. Newman questioned Ignatieff's sense of the term "we" in addressing an American audience in the New York Times. "How were we sitting as an American," charges Newman, to which Ignatieff replied, "Sometimes you want to increase your influence over your audience by appropriating their voice, but it was a mistake." Fair enough, but it's important for me (as a potential supporter of Ignatieff) to know the identity of "us" when he says, "We don't seek an empire." If he was referring to the American people in some of what they can become if they realize their constitutional rights, I understand his statement. But "us" includes the current U.S. administration and its supporters. I am inclined to wonder Gary de Laros, Calgary

OPEN UP, MR. HARPER

SO AFTER MY face-to-face meeting with George W. Bush in Mexico, Stephen Harper tells reporters he doesn't "expect an all-out conversation" ("Spring break summit," National, April 16). Fossil fuel alert: Canadians expect transparency from their government leaders. When Harper meets with world leaders, he is representing Canadians



WHEN YOU NEED A NURSE WILL ONE BE THERE FOR YOU?

Ontario has a nursing shortage that is becoming a healthcare crisis. Registered nurses are caring for more people and dealing with more severe illnesses than ever before. That has led to stress, injury and burnout, putting quality patient care at risk. Up to 30,000 nurses are expected to leave the profession by 2008. The Ontario government promised to hire more full-time nurses. But we need action now. The promise must be kept.

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Unpopular, sure, but hardly the worst in 100 years

BY GORDON BRADSHAW • Steve Maud's assault on George W. Bush is possibly the worst U.S. president in 100 years as unjust. Assuming he finishes out this term in good health, Bush will be only the sixth to do so of 35 presidents since Andrew Jackson, and the beginning of the modern electoral system. He is only the third president since Jackson to lead his party to control of both houses of Congress through six consecutive years. With fewer his critics and cultural limitations, George W. Bush is an able political operator. He did win 69 per cent of the vote to governor of a state of 21 million people which, the last time there was a president from Texas (Lyndon B. Johnson), had almost no Republican tilt.

When he became president, the country was about to re-up the whirlwind of 800 Cheney's fertile responses to a succession of terrorist actions: Somalia, USS Cole, Khafsa Towers, the African embassy bombings. The country was heading into recession, which the past 90 years concerns sharply accelerated.

The first priority was to restore American deterrence force. Franklin D. Roosevelt told Congress after the attack on Pearl Harbor "We will make very certain that this form of treachery never again challenges us." No country has divided America the United States since 1940 and American deterring strength is vital to the general peace of the world. The nations and supporters of the 9/11 attacks, with their nationally anonymous assassinists, tried to crash on the American deterring. Saddam, through a war leader, symbolized the indifference of the Arab world, and whatever the ultimate disposition of Iraq, U.S. deterrence has been re-established. Terrorism has struck in Madrid, London, Indonesia, but not so much as a terrorist has gone off in the Americas. There is little talk now of the United States lacking staying power, as Hitler at Munich and China at Nanking used to claim. This is a great and necessary achievement.

Bush merited to displace Reymond et al

present a recession, lower taxes and discount rate, increased spending and money supply. He has mismanaged the world's greatest economy virtually into a free haven, and his critics has occurred to the best. Reagan Clinton rose of about three million net new jobs annually, with negligible inflation. Federal revenues are rising well above projections and a federal deficit will moderate and sink quickly as a percentage of GDP, more or less as it did in the Reagan years. As under Reagan and Clinton, a no unemployment, no inflation economy will reduce poverty levels very quickly. Most Americans are markedly better off now than when Bush was first inaugurated. Maud accepts this performance criterion but not the results.

The \$100-billion current account deficit is a short weakness, thought as hardly security Bush's creation. One third of it is overseas profits of American business and shouldn't really be counted. Half the rest is energy imports, where the administration's response

that there is not really a problem so far. The alleged unpopularity of the United States in the world is irrelevant. America was popular when defeating Germany liberating other countries, during the Second World War and the Cold War. The world doesn't like to be unpopled, and most foreigners want to pick America's pocket. Apart from normal competition for the victims, most expressions of solidarity with the United States since 9/11 were really a desire to enslave America on America's response. Most of the world was comfortable in the unusual status of the United States to a victim.

In Iraq, suicide murders, car bombings, deaths of security forces, and civil liberties violations have all come sharply down (60 per cent to 50 per cent in most fields). Iraq's economy has grown 40 per cent since 2003, according to the IMF. There have been serious tactical errors, and disarming or immobilizing the militias will be difficult, but legitimate authorities, with ever larger numbers of trained

No one doubts American staying power now. This is a great and necessary achievement.



CREATING an immigration challenge for the country than most think, Maud's assault against terror, Bush will be vindicated

has been inadequate, like all its predecessors' great Nixon. The running share of the deficit in its normal traffic of goods and services and the administration has been slow to deal with the Chinese in particular for what a crisis in Chinese, though there is little severe progress.

Bush has been attentive and responsible in transportation, as previous presidents have discarded, and where Congress has so far failed. His strengthening of relations with India has been well conceived and executed. It is a rich field for Maud to charge Bush with mismanaging Social Security, since he has used entirely to reform it, generally along lines proposed by the late Democratic senator Pat Moynihan, and has been obstructed by the Democrats, who claim

political problems, necessary to justify our foreign terrorism eventually. The worst plausible facade partition of Iraq between Kurds, Sunnis, and Shiites. That should be available, and even that would be preferable to the continuation of Saddam Hussein.

If Iraq emerges intact, with a reasonable level of government and wealth distribution and institutional control, it will be an extraordinary achievement to the masses of the other great Arab countries, who have begun reeling but cannot disengage up to now.

This President will not cut and run as Arafat was did in Beirut and Somalia. Maud will have to do better than the old "regime" (MVA/College, Mississippi), or the respectable but financially proven historian Robert Dallek, who has not had a police word for any Republican since Teddy Roosevelt, to banish George W. to the company of the unhappy James Buchanan. His present poll numbers are not unusual for this point in presidency and he could end up anywhere between being judged an unsuccessful president and a very accomplished one. He's no Lincoln or FDR, but he's not Carter or Harding either. ■

ON THE WEB: To read Steve Maud's response please go to mcs.usc.edu/bradsh



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7 DAYS
OF NEWS

STORY OF THE WEEK — A BUNGLED KIDNAPPING

After eight days of turmoil, a B.C. couple was overjoyed by the safe return of their son, 23-year-old Genshawn McMyne, who was abducted from his car at gunpoint on April 4, not far from the family's home in an affluent Vancouver neighbourhood. After an extensive police investigation involving almost 200 officers, the RCMP rescued McMyne last Wednesday in a late-morning raid on a Surrey home. His young men have been charged in connection with the abduction.

Good news

Nudge comes to push

Any remaining goodwill toward Iran on the international community is quickly running out. Last week, following a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay signalled that Canada would back Washington and the European Union's hard-stance against Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's continued defiance to defy demands that it halt its weapons enrichment program. However, MacKay said he wasn't ready to take "drastic steps." But what reports that Iran is developing nuclear weapons are also, the time for foreign sanctions is fast approaching.

Dirty cops on notice

Early April saw an outbreak of anti-crime demonstrations in the streets of Canada sparked by the recent abductions and vicious murders of three Canadian-Venezuelan brothers. Angry protesters accused police of being corrupt and corrupt—and they blame the government for turning a blind eye to the problem. Now, in the wake of public pressure, and a released son by President Hugo Chavez's appointment, Venezuelan authorities appear to have stepped up their investigation, arresting one police officer—and identifying a second—in connection with the Paddock murders. More than 50 suspects are already in custody.

For your information

Anyone who has benefited in the recent information era request knows the process can be slow and frustrating. But new Treasury Board President John Manly is promising that government will do better. "You shouldn't be looking for reasons why you can't release something," he said.

the Globe and Mail last week

"You should be looking for the reasons why you should." We learned that New York Post gossip writer Janet Paul Stern was implicated in a corrupt of insurance scheme involving billionaire Ron Burkle. We subsequently found out that viral reports in the New York Times and New York Daily News raised a critical part of the story: that the evidence against Stern may have been taken out of context.

So boring, it's funny

In a recent episode of *The Sopranos*, an unexpected mid to a Canadian horse-drawn carriage.

FACE OF THE WEEK



GRADUATION DAY Queen Elizabeth II shares a smile with Prince Harry at his graduation from Sandhurst military academy last week.

manus has put the cover of *Caroline*, also on the map, so to speak. In the episode, Patsy and John, Patsy's angry voiced daughter-in-law, have kidnapped Richard Dean Anderson, the former star of *TV's MacGyver*.

Lower to him, now that the stars accept to torture Anderson with vicious blind-firing Canadian's *Revenge* (Casting: Maroon) and his last tangibles. We've chosen to take this decision to Canadians as a compromise—evidence that even at our most excruciating dull, we'll still funny.

Bad news

Media mayhem

It was an embarrassing week so far in the media business. First, we learned that New York Post gossip writer Janet Paul Stern was implicated in a corrupt of insurance scheme involving billionaire Ron Burkle. We subsequently found out that viral reports in the New York Times and New York Daily News raised a critical part of the story: that the evidence against Stern may have been taken out of context. Then it emerged that reports about a gang rape involving the

that Canada is irrelevant to the rest of the world.

Finally, Canadians endured another week of bleating and moaning from the *Prejudice* press gallery about how the Harper government's new media protocols and the federal accessibility act will damage Ottawa's ingrained culture of *leaky* and *back-scratching*. The loudest complaints are coming from Ottawa veterans, who've grown very comfortable opening water the cozy world of the media pack. Memo to the gallery: quit complaining and get back to work.

Another bombshell

Harry Schmidt, the American top gun fighter pilot who killed four Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, is suing the U.S. air force, claiming the military ruined his reputation when it publicly disclosed the letter of reprimand he received for his "excessive behavior." The lawsuit was filed on April 7, 10 days before the letter of his victims would mark the fourth anniversary of the bombing. Once again, Schmidt has demonstrated his total lack of remorse and his unwillingness to accept even a shred of responsibility.

Still no HBO

Canadian fans have been in *Boyz n the City* show since you can't find it. The *Boyz n the City* show since you can't find it. But if we had HBO we would have been able to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Real Sports* with *Boyz n the City*—a critically acclaimed weekly magazine show where, according to *Caroline*, sports are dealt with in "the land of honest and straightforward football that others can't do it," because it's not pay TV instead of network television. ■



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF SILVIO BERLUSCONI

Confident, colorful and bizarre, Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi waded his political career this last week. Despite his charge that the April 9 vote was "rigged," his own allies denounced the outcome, citing the country toward right Romano Prodi, who campaigned on a slogan of antipolitical character: "Seriousness in government." Berlusconi may have been undone by his patron Italian voters, many of them in Canada, where they live with seriousness all the time.

DISCOVERY

Most of death

Selenists are tracking the rapid rise of an undersea volcano near the South Pacific's Samoa and Tonga. In five years, it could have eruptions near 3000. The volcano, named Nihami, is still 7000 to 8000 feet under the surface of the ocean and has what volcanologists call a "moat" of lava. This is a toxic, scorching inner region that acts as a natural life and kills it. The rising tower of ash and other lava flows provides a host for bacteria, which in turn feed real brittle worms.

Speaking Jafarica

A new British paper in English inspired others such as *Coconut*, *Guinea* and *Southern*. Known as "Jafarica," it is an amalgam of Jamaican, West African and East Indian accents. Linguists say it's now so common in some



MODERN BEHOLD: Goodbye, cockney, hello Jafarica

Goodbye, tungsten

Natural colored light sources using LEDs could finally spell the end of the incandescent light bulb's 120-year reign. Ten per cent of U.S. energy consumption is by traditional bulbs, so finding an energy-saving replacement such as the new LED design could mean massive savings. The new LED is composed of amino, that layers can be colored red, green and blue dyes. When electrified, they produce natural light, unlike the unworldly light produced by earlier forms of LEDs. It's believed that the new design could achieve 100 per cent efficiency, turning all the electricity in comparison to light. Tungsten bulbs produce intense heat, which is wasted.

Explaining the brink

Near-death experiences in which people on the brink of extinction believe they are float-

ing underwater. REM sleep-deep dreaming, but as people with near death experiences and waterfalls in the water and creating hallucinations.

WILD KINGDOM

Land fish

A newly discovered fish doesn't leap out of the water to make its home. It comes right into land to eat herbivorous insects. Known as the fish eel, the fish of West Africa swims through the air and eats insects in its head. It's called a fish eel because it usually lives in head down to grab bugs.



WILD HORSES: Birth control

MORTALITY

Women: good news

A moderate amount of drinking actually boosts women's cognitive abilities. A sample of older New York City women found that those who said they have between one drink a week and two a day scored better on cognitive tests than did abstemious. In the absence of further data, however, researchers refrained from concluding that it's the booze that makes women brighter. Men, while, another thing that women benefit from have they read the media, especially when they're



BARRECCO: Prostate cancer

THE WEEK AHEAD...HU'S IN WASHINGTON

Chinese President Hu Jintao pays a visit to the White House at a time when Washington is torn between further engaging in lucrative trade with China or trying to contain a significant new geopolitical rival. Scheduled cabinet members of parliament are scheduled to gather from across the Pacific and Atlantic and choose a new prime minister, but some MPs have already spent hours offered to them for airfare. They've used the money to pay off election expenses.



China of 610 people who'd received the treatment in 1985 found that they were 3.8 times as likely to develop diabetes as patients who'd received other kidney disease treatments. The degree of risk rose with the intensity of the shock waves used. Lanthanum recipients were also 1.5 times as likely to have hypertension as other patients.

KIDS TODAY

The little metador

Barbie Mimble is a prology, a ballgame at the age of nine who has already won over 200 kg opponents in two dozen matches in Mexico. He's not strong, but he's a driver, a specialist in the ball to deliver the snap de-clarer. His mother says he'll be



MIMBLE: Too young to hit

Men: bad news

It's tough being a man. A campaign launched in their behalf but based more on encouraging the development of prostate cancer, at least entering the race used in a new study. Meanwhile, another cancer news to have a greater effect on men's brains than women's. Men's brains showed the presence of up to three times the amount of dopamine, a neurotransmitter, at an instant when exposed to the drug. Among other things, dopamine is linked to the sense of pleasure that can cause people to become addicted to drugs. The findings seem to explain why more men than women abuse stimulants.

Everyone: bad news

Shock wave lithotripsy, a common treatment to break up kidney stones, may increase the risk of suffering from diabetes or hypertension later in life. A study by Minnesota's Mayo

clinic of 610 people who'd received the treatment in 1985 found that they were 3.8 times as likely to develop diabetes as patients who'd received other kidney disease treatments. The degree of risk rose with the intensity of the shock waves used. Lanthanum recipients were also 1.5 times as likely to have hypertension as other patients.

MONEY

Big boys' toys

Japanese adults are buying children's toys for themselves like never before, especially ones that only their childhood TV shows. One example is the action hero doll featured in the 1970s children's series *Kamen Rider*. The Kamen Rider company sold 1.5 million dolls to children for about \$94 in the 1970s. Today's toys for men cost nearly \$100. "Once you put this doll on you become a different self," says a Kamen Rider executive. That's not just the price that's gotten jelly-belly men stretch to 44 inches for the bigger men of today.

POLL WATCH

Mr. Sami Suave

The stereotypes of men in other nations are as "manly" as the stereotypes of men in America. Men are both more sophisticated and more down-to-earth than the stereotypes suggest. A survey for an American brewery found that 57 per cent of young men think they could prepare a good meal if it was a woman dropped in unexpected. 68 per cent were at least one or two times ready to hit the man surveyed more than five times a week and only three per cent would take a woman to a museum or art gallery on a first date.

IN OTHER NEWS

Neutral names

Sectarian strife in Iraq has reached the point where many officers are legally changing their names to avoid those that

sounded either Sunni or Shia. Plagued by tribal checkpoints and the threat of kidnapping or execution by the opposing sect, Iraqi men are changing names as a matter of survival. Says university student Omar Sami, "My life is more precious than my name."

IN PASSING

Jan Sinclair, 92, business executive. He joined Canadian Pacific Ltd. in its greatest years as a transportation and resources conglomerate. He was minister for his department in the 1970s. During his years at the



SINCLAIR: Grooming style

helps, 1969 to 1981, the worth of CP's assets grew from \$2.2 billion to \$13 billion, and his net worth surged from \$18 million to \$10 billion.

Rajkumar, 77, phenomenally popular Indian film actor, who starred in more than 300 Indian language movies, including *The Golden Era* and *Shakti*. In 1980 he was kidnapped by bandits and held for weeks in an Indian forest. At the time his disappearance sparked violent protests. Last week, there were more than 100,000 people at his funeral, and he was buried in a state funeral and clanked with police. M



'The more time you spend with children, the more moments of tedium. And the more profoundly joyful moments.'

CAITLIN FLANAGAN, AUTHOR AND ADVOCATE OF MOTHERS STAYING AT HOME AND TAKING PRIDE IN HOUSEWORK, TALKS TO LINDA FRUM

Caitlin Flanagan, 44, knows how to stir the pot, metaphorically speaking. A Los Angeles-based staff writer with the *New Yorker* magazine, Flanagan is the author of the newly released *To Mom With Love: Loving and Looking Good on Housework*. Flanagan has built her reputation as the champion of a lost lifestyle: one where women take pride in their housewifery skills and devote their energies to smoothing out the lives of husbands and children. The mother of 8-year-old twins and the wife of a Hollywood producer, Flanagan is the first to confess that her romantic visions of housewifery don't always conform to reality.

is very loose with her kids the whole day?

At 1 feel that there is something of profound worth and profound consequence that is implacable in human experience by being raised at home by a mother who loves you. And that there is a different kind of relationship, a different kind of bond, a different kind of knowingness between parent and child when a child is raised by a parent—whether a father or mother—than between a parent and child who is raised in a professional manner. I think that something profound is gained if a woman is a high-powered woman, with a job she loves, and all the benefits that come with that. The kids get a sense of their mother as a person of great consequence in the larger world. And that she's very happy and fun. The people who are like that, that I know, are really high-energy people. I've met high-energy people. I know women who come crashing through the door after 12 straight hours at work, full of beans. They are completely involved in bedtime, or whatever piece of the day is left to them to engage in their children. I may look at that and say I wouldn't want to be mothered that way. But I don't think that input would be of any value to that woman.

Q: So you are saying that a woman who stays at home with her children has a choice, over someone bond with her children who is a woman who does not?

A: The thing about children is, the more time you spend with them, the more moments of tedium and profound joy there are.

ments of tedium and profound joy there are, and sometimes deeper joy may experience, and also the more episodes of utter over-accident and utter communication. And because children are the way they are, you can't ask them to schedule the joyful, profound moments between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. The more vibrant you get, the more profoundly joyful moments you get.

Q: So you are advocating that women should stay at home with their kids?

No. I'm not. I'm a Democrat and a liberal who has experienced all kinds of lifestyles, and whose perspective of alternative lifestyles. For example, I'm very supportive of gay marriage as if it's not an issue when you just are very of being a family. But I think it's very important for us to be honest about what the trade-offs are in life. And if you are away from your child all day long, you miss something. You've lost something.

Q: You are very careful in your book about how deeply you were when your twins were born. You had a teacher and your husband, who is a producer, was away working long hours. And even though you had a full-time nanny, you do acknowledge that it was not always fun for you to be stuck at home taking care of little kids.

A: People say about me that I'm a hypocrite because I say one thing and do another. And I say, indeed I'm not. I'm the one

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Q Caitlin, two weeks ago I mentioned how Helen had been approaching her life as a depressed person. She argues that women live are most fulfilling when domestic life is blended with a career. That's obviously at your wit's end. At home's mad her book you, but I know women like Beanie Fuller, who have successfully huge apparatus for their work and very modest needs to spend time with their children. I think if Beanie Fuller spent as much time with her children as I spend with mine, she would probably drink the walls. So I think she is speaking with complete candor and from the heart.

Q: You believe that if a woman can afford



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who wrote the book that said I'm so parent child for being the ideal at home mother? I had help with it. I'm selling you I was depressed a lot of the time. But I'm also telling you that the experience of being unaccompanied with my children for so many hours brought forth a kind of deep consciousness that I wouldn't sacrifice for anything—unless I needed to support them.

Q The modern-day work environment has become super demanding. You make the argument that if a woman had an option to liberate her from the daily grind, she should resist in that freedom and grab it.

A We have these very high standards, as women, all the way around the clock of our lives. I'm going to take a job that involves my trying to work very, very late. And yet, I'm going to read all these magazines that tell me how important it is for my family to sit down at dinner every night. And I'm going to read all these things about how you have to eat low-carb, and not let your kids have too much of this or that. But I'm still going to manage to get that dinner on the table or get myself out if I don't do it. And I know I'm supposed to be sexual in my marriage, but I'm absolutely exhausted.

Q And as you write, the prior that many women are paying for all that multitasking is a serious marriage?

A I know about serious marriages because there was all this talk in the media about it and I read a lot of it and I was a terror too. And I met a few women who said it was true. I read a lot of the famous books from the '90s and the '80s, like *The Total Woman*, to see what their approach to it was. And their approach was that it was really important that you not be exhausted come bedtime. And one of the things you did to accomplish that was become better at housework. You organized your life better so that your weekly duties—your car, your shopping, your dinner by the clock. And then you took a little rest day. And then the husband came home at a decent hour, like 5 o'clock. And the whole thing was conducive to getting into bed not feeling exhausted though you couldn't possibly do one more thing.

Q The role of your book is partly to respond by your author, who are a perfect home wife extraordinaire, used our day the dedicated "to hell with this."

A The title of the book is a play on Robert Graves' memoir *Goodbye to All That*. It was an elegiac book about the England that had been lost. And I think that sense of elegy when I wrote about my mother where she was that very traditional housewife, making a home and then all of a sudden, when her

youngest child was 12, she said, "to hell with it. I'm not going to do this anymore. I want to work." Now the thing is, that was not unusual in the housewife era. If you look at actual numbers, women moved in and out of work all the time in the '50s. When your kids are very small, there's an awful lot to do. But as they get older and more capable, there's less and less to do at home. And women are real people. And my mother was a real person. And she said, "I'm tired as a man. It really matters to me." And broke it went.

Q Was it helpful to you when she did that?

A Every good thing in my childhood, that made my home wonderful and a place that felt safe, had to do with the lessons that my mother put into it. It had to do with all eating dinner together every single night. And we didn't do it as some plan to do with family improvement. We did it because everybody was hungry and everybody was hungry. The home felt vital and alive when my mother was in it, running it. We walked in and things were ready, everything was working, and everything was being repaired.

Q That very life was very precious for your father and your aunt and you, but clearly it required sacrifice on your mother's part.

A Yes, but I'm very in favor of sacrifice and obligation. I think that wherever I lead our lives trying to find happiness, we never find it. And when we lead our lives adding, to whom am I in service and what are my obligations—happiness is very often a by-product.

Q You dislike being called a working mother—and yet you have a flourishing career, at an essayist and author.

A I feel guilty about it because my job is so costly and sweet. I get my own hours. I set my own deadlines. I get paid very well. I feel that if I say, "Well, I'm a working mother and I get everything done," it would be preposterous. I certainly am a working mother. I have a job and I get paid. But when I talk about the conflicts and difficulties of working mothers, I'm really referring to mothers who live that world of employment where you have to be at a certain place at a certain time. And it doesn't matter if your child has an earache. You still have that meeting and you are stuck. I've never stuck like that.

Q What do you want women who read your book to take away from it?

A The number one thing I want them to take away from it is to know that men are not the enemy. Men really want to help women. There are more bad men out there. Avoid them if you are married to a bad man, divorce him. But otherwise, it's hard word women to do two things: to leave their socks on the

floor, and to help women. And if an attorney was going up to say away the newspaper and sweep up the crumbs when you work late. But I guarantee you if someone tries to break into your house in the middle of the night, he's going to get out of bed with a baseball bat and confront that person. You will be a coach, coach, much happier person if you insist a lot of time was making your husband happy. Everything will flow from that.

Q So that means always a hot meal on the table and rising up to have fun at bedtime?

A Why doesn't everybody try doing one nice thing for her husband without any strings attached and see what happens? When he walks in that door, and says "Hey, this is my favorite dinner!" Just say "Well, that's why I made it." And see what happens. The man is an American comedian who has this whole routine about "Women, do you want to keep a man? Just keep putting out his food and a man will come home." It's their homing system.



"A 'total woman' could not be tired come bedtime, so housewife duties had to be done by 3 p.m."

Q No doubt that's true. But I know why women don't do it. Making dinner, night after night, which pleases both adults and kids, is a major task.

A It's a pain because we have all these high standards. Think about all the '90s and '80s housewives. The vegetable was a core of green beans. The meat was pork that got stuck in the oven or spit. And the side dish was a jar of applesauce that got frozen in a—maybe. It was not haute cuisine. And you know what? Men would be fine with that. ■

one who's spent his life playing the jet stream of big ideas. The interview, which lasts over two hours, is conducted mostly in French.

Q *How new does the film offer an intimate portrait of Hassan, as David Belfield, How did you meet him?*
A During my first trip to Iran, when I was preparing to shoot *Salam Iran*, Hassan was close to vice-president Mousa [Mousavizadeh]. He was the one who gave me the green light. That part of the reform movement came from the States. When Iran was under the Shah, they were studying in Washington at Howard University.

Q *How did you arrange to film Hassan?*
A It was impossible to get any crew into Iran. Most Iranian helped a lot. I rented an apartment, because as a filmmaker it was impossible. I stayed two months. I spent a lot of time with my daughter before I start filming. There was just Hassan and my own eyes. In Islam and Christianity, we were together in his basement home, with just one

young Lord. And to be sure, they aren't the only people saying that in the United States. **Q** *But you don't challenge their opinion.*
A Well, what power could challenge them? That experience is more solid than mine to talk about that. And I'm a filmmaker, not one who treat discourse in an artistic manner and puts it up for debate. It's not up to me to answer the question. I'm not an investigative journalist. I don't want to be a journalist. I'm someone who gives voice to what's being said and challenges it. I'm a spectator working with the same intent offered by Spinoza in the quote at the start of the film: "Neither laugh nor cry, but understand."

Q *At that time, Pierre Trudeau would not let his legation "house" ever police?"*
A It's not the same. I'm someone who wants to put the pieces together and construct something that sticks to the dramatic narrative yet develops a philosophical thesis.

Q *In the film, Joseph Green [ambassador of France to Tehran] says the U.S. allowed Iran to*

for all the possible viewpoints in order to challenge them. And if you put all the elements together, it's quite disconcerting. I can't say beyond that. I think there is a lot of points some questions. What is a terrorist? What causes a terrorist? What about the fragility of terrorism? How does it become a double-edged sword? The fragility of terrorism comes and it can be a weapon for one thing and it can be a weapon for another. It can be affected by influences (it's a blivion) to Hassan hasn't won the film, but when he won it he will find things that he disagrees with. There are various truths in the film. Even Hassan isn't the real issue.

Q *Let me play devil's advocate.*
A I have a great deal of affinity with the devil.

Q *Now say there's more than one truth, but most movies are not that documentary, not philosophy, and come away with a strong impression there was a US government conspiracy to support the assassination of an Iranian diplomat. Is that the impression you want to give?*

A Yes, it's the impression I had. One the level of impression, one it's not rational. It's because something bothers you that you make a film. It's because there are things I don't understand and I want to understand.

Q *But that's a conspiracy to assassinate.*
A These are his words, not mine. And they are disturbing. There's that Guy Saki, who doesn't know Iran and takes him for an illusionist. What the film does is to say, there are some disturbing facts, and we should be interested in those troubling facts. American action on Iran is not to say. This Iranian-American relationship is not new. It goes back to the Shah and the Shah's father. There are very old traditions. But there's never been a drop of blood spilled between the two countries. There was only one death—Mr. Takhtabadi, consumed by a young black American. And we've glossed over that too quickly. This was someone from a good family—his brother was a politician—and they were very gently torn apart by what happened.

Q *Do you find Hassan sympathetic?*
A Sympathetic is not the issue. Authentic is what matters. I've always said that I can

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find a hundred facts authentically a hundred. On the human level, Hassan is not a terrorist. On the ethical level, he's an assassin, now classified as a terrorist by the FBI. I cannot have sympathy for an assassin. But I can have empathy. Hassan was father with one that with anyone else because it was an empathetic connection. I can feel that he has human qualities. How do we understand these people?

Q *It's never going to be a movie that who become someone? I'm not trying to justify them, I'm trying to understand them. Hassan is quite different in time. This is an American who communicates someone in the United States, not just for the Islamic revolution but against the American that has rejected his candidacy as a black man. And he has a completely coherent justification. That's what's disturbing. If he was a scientist, a madman, it would require no.*

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Q *In the 20th century, quite distant revolutions have had a strong presence on the international level, and as such, the Islamic revolution, the Cuban revolution, the Iranian revolution. And then there was the youth revolution in May '68. I was a young person, and that "revolution" was the only one that I lived through. I can't close up.*

Q *Were you in it, or just watching it?*
A It's like war. You can't just watch. Your students are in the street, they're asking you what's meant, and it's difficult to find meaning in the chaos. Action movie is a way of understanding later, with cinema, what happened in other cases—the failure of the Russian revolution, of the Cuban revolution, of the Iranian revolution. Every revolution that is carried out against oppression somewhere to be justified, moral by. But it may not be in the way that it takes place, or in the way that it turns out. The beauty of revolution begins quickly.

Q *In May '68 were you observer or activist?*
A As a professor, you write an essay, not an activist. But like the experience of the 1960s, I think I had at that time were significant. Only things that were suggested to help me make sense of it, while the sense came of the limits of those tools. I was a philosopher, a student of journalism legend, Michel Fou-



BEHREZ KHANAN, a young Iranian, was the first to be released from the prison where he was held.

cault and Michel Foucault. One thing I learned from a student of thought was to doubt. **Q** *So you managed to get involved?*
A I asked questions. I did not want to get myself into it, the same way that I filmed in Iran from the inside, and filmed the FLQ from the inside—not in the FLQ but representing it from within.

Q *Now you're not just a filmmaker. You're at Biden Hill. Do you expect the film to be controversial because of your own role?*
A If it is, that would be a mistake by those creating the controversy. The only controversy I've known of that matter, around my wife's commitment, was a misunderstanding. They quoted my film out of context: My work is to contribute to the consciousness of

the country, and it's the same work whether I'm making films or in Biden Hill.

Q *But there was controversy about your possible separatist sympathies years ago.*

A It was a ridiculous attack. It was the same as having AIDS. To approach those you deemed to death, or to visit a prison, or to see a former member of the FLQ, I'm not libelous in history, as a character. On the other hand, empathy is basic to my work. In Quebec there's a history of October 1970, and after October 1970. This is the question posed by La Liberté's editor. How can you kill a man who symbolically represents nothing of what you're killing him for? Usually revolutions choose highly symbolic targets. In the case of M. [Pierre] Laporte, it's an abstraction.

Q *That controversy has passed. But your film depicts Iranian crimes against its terrorists, and that Hassan's crimes were not set in stone committed by the Revolutionary Guard.*

A Anybody who is able to read results that every day in the newspaper. It's not more



Q *What were your job in the 1970s?*
A I was doing my job. My job is to question. **Q** *Will there be reactions from the White House?*

A If there are reactions, good. Good. People like films that are much more troubling to the White House than to my reaction. **Q** *But these films don't come from the Government's handbook.*

A That's a media man that's of no matter. I wasn't the husband of the Governor General, when I made the film, first of all. And I remain a free man. I hope there is a debate about the film. I'm not free to make people, but I'm not making anyone. **Q** *The U.S. government may feel involved. After the coup in the film of Michael Moore, there are a lot of rumors. My book is not ridiculed. I haven't read the truth.*
Q *You've selected the truth.*

'I CANNOT HAVE SYMPATHY FOR AN ASSASSIN, BUT I CAN HAVE EMPATHY'

words about the truth, like a film. **Q** *Did you like the job?*
A Like him? I respect him. I respect every character in my film. He has good context with people—a very good communication. And he's completely honest. I can't resist what he did. It's impossible. I would like to know why he did it. What did he mean, and what does it mean to become an assassin?

The Islamic revolution was the most important event in the Islamic world in the '70s, and now we're living with the consequences. Hassan is the first American terrorist within the States who has assassinated someone from a foreign country. This allowed us to tell the story of a black guy from this generation who had been born by the assassins of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. **Q** *How people affect the film? Did they were made by the U.S. government, Draymond?*
A I have no power to say if they are right or wrong. I know that studies and articles published recently attempt to confirm that they were assassinated by the state. They talk about modern by the CIA and so on. In my film there are two people who say that, Hassan and Denise Oliver, an anthropologist who used to belong to the Black Panthers and the



BEHREZ KHANAN, a young Iranian, was the first to be released from the prison where he was held.

assassinate one of his enemies in exchange for opening hostage negotiations. Do you know what he said to his captors?

A It's obvious that he was for Iran. And that's the case for [former advisor to President Jimmy Carter] Guy Saki's opinion. Sack is a man of reason who doesn't believe in the CIA. He doesn't go beyond the evidence he has. He said, "Unfortunately I have no smoking gun." **Q** *Do you think there is a real problem?*
A I think there is a lot of these people who are investigative journalists. Part of their inquiry is investigation. It's not a police inquiry. It's not a police inquiry. They're different ways of investigating things. I'm not looking for a guilty party. I'm looking



THE FILMMAKER: LeFond says it's not up to him to answer questions, but to treat discourse creatively and put matters up for debate

Alfred built a model, like Einstein built *E=mc²*. It represents reality, but it's not reality. Q: Journalism tries to represent reality. A: Good luck. Reality is nothing. Q: Don't you find there's an irony that someone who has devoted much of his career to making films about resistance to state power should now be so intimately identified with the state? A: But not with the power. It's a good paradox. This situation could be the object of another film.

Q: Tell me about your family background. A: I was born on Aug. 15, 1944, when Paris was liberated—beneath the bombs. My father was absent, a prisoner of war. He worked at Daupine, a tire factory. He had no start at all ever from nothing at 59. They had nothing left. They had no house. My father was someone who, in the French sense, had socialist ideas, who believed in the world

through work, and all that would lead some where. He worked like a dog, and the day of his retirement he died, so at that was nothing left to do. My mother survived with Alzheimer's, the living dead. When I was in Canada I went to visit her. She opened the door. She said, "Bonjour Monsieur." She didn't recognize me.

Q: Why did you leave French Canada to Quebec? A: The first time was in 1974 as guest professor at philosophy Dauphine 70 in France. I was a film critic at the time, but nothing was urging me to stay there. It's like a love story, she's 35 per cent that's national and 65 per cent that's provincial.

Q: You fell in love with Quebec? A: Yes, and with Canada too. I left France on unpaid leave, and finally became a Canada citizen in 1982. In France I'd made 10 political films. But in Quebec I began to make real films.

Q: How did you meet Michelle Jussé? A: I met Michelle in '80. I didn't know her. I'd seen her on television. I was looking into the actions of Quebec identity to Mark Harey and met her twice or three times. When I finished *Le Monde Nigre*, I was about to prepare *Trappeur Nord* and I said, "Listen, I'm going to Harey, would you like to join me as a researcher?" I went to researchers and we never left each other. It's as simple as that. We ended up producing the film because of

our love affair. I made it in '92. It was a film that asked what would be the fate of a Black child in Quebec—a child so named here [adopted daughter Marie-Eslee].

Trappeur Nord was greatly talked about and debated in Quebec. I was attacked by separatists, the way they're attacking [playwright Michel] Tremblay. Because I talked about the history of slavery in Quebec. They said slavery was gentler in Quebec than that where. How could it be gentler? It's like the same. There's no worse. Slavery is slavery. Q: What are your own politics?

A: I'm a profound humanist, a profound, sensible and persistent humanist. I fight for the humanization of humanity. I've never been a member of any party. On the other hand, I'm extremely aware of what's happening politically, and I follow everything that happens. I denounce the newspapers.

Q: Finally, I have to ask how you got the rights to David B. Davis, the Bruce Springsteen song that you put at the end of *Ausencia Fugitiva*?

A: From Springsteen himself. He had to agree to it. Charles Paguau, who composed the original score, knew Springsteen's crew. It was very simple. I was on the road in Washington and heard this song for the first time. "That's the song. That's the end of the film." We didn't have a local money. We sent the film to Springsteen's people. Now that I have time, I'd like to contact Springsteen. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL (1992)

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA...

Playwright Michel Tremblay renounces separatism—and undermines an already adrift Parti Québécois

BY MICHAEL ALLEN • In this close-tooled District Society, writing about being gay helped Michel Tremblay become rich and famous as a novelist and playwright—and having earned success never prevented André Rivest from becoming the leader of the Opposition. Blame, please, the Pope's authority, evokes senile, outcasts' (shut down). But as Tremblay found out last week, there is one sacred cow that cannot be lashed without triggering a deluge in anger and expletives. In Quebec, a known separatist openly publicly express doubt about the possibility of secession—or the ability of the Parti Québécois to achieve that goal. Indeed, Ben Tremblay, 45, a lifelong separatist icon, did just that last week, and he was cheered and cheered by a crowd of singers, novelists and other writers.

They ordered him to shut up to keep out of the province. They called him a traitor, an old fuddy-duddy, then from Victor-Lévy Beauchamp, another aging separatist writer, an "asshole." For good measure, former PQ premier Bernard Landry said he will boycott Tremblay's plays from now on. And Tremblay's famous crisis? He said publicly what's a growing number of separatists have started to admit, privately: separatism was a seductive idea at the time, but that time may be over. "It was a beautiful dream, and one must respect such dreams, but it will never be more than a dream if we keep looking at it as an economic issue first," Tremblay told a Canadian Press reporter.

The way left the best pages of the province's week-end on Monday and continued to find a weak floor. "I became a separatist through, 'We are French-quebecois, and we are strong enough to do it, so let's create a country,'" Tremblay said. And then, the separatist movement was a unique dream, fueled by cultural nationalism—but the stigma has since been revealed by Jean-Claude Fauriol on social television, he added. "The driving force was one's pride in being the best of Francophone culture in America—put the economy."

For the PQ, the bad news continued. Robert Laporte, another globe-trotting Quebec play-

wright, turned Tremblay's remarks into a double whammy, saying he took his following for granted in separation, and feels the need to be "renewed once." Laporte, who was in Montreal when the Tremblay story broke, explained that he identifies as Québécois when in Canada, but views himself more as a Canadian

on Tremblay's critics. "Only when never question their common sense," he wrote in his column in *Le Journal de Montréal*. Raymond Laframboise, a former separatist and now a provincial Liberal cabinet minister, reminded the *Provincer*, tongue-in-cheek, that "separatism is not religious dogma," and can be deconstructed.

The controversy revealed a sense of panic amid the PQ, says Jean-François Gauthier, a political scientist at Université de Sherbrooke. "The separatists are in a bad fix at the moment," he says. "Whatever momentum they seemed to be enjoying just a few months



TREMBLAY was vilified by P Québécois. That didn't go over well with many Quebecers

when working in Europe or Asia.

Last in the week, Tremblay issued his still ill "separatist," but this was towards the past. By then, the PQ was already off, largely because of the incident, knew just as across Tremblay's remarks triggered separatist party expenditures. Quebecers lit up radio station soundboards and filled up red pages with letters expressing outrage over such "racism" and "discrimination" (separatism), as some wrote in *Montréal's Le Presse*. Even militant separatists such as Luc Poirier, a former PQ cabinet minister, came downhard

also is now slipping between their fingers. Even victory in a by-election in the central Montreal riding of St-Mathias-St-Jacques on April 30—a PQ stronghold—left the party with a bitter aftermath. It held on to the riding, but with 41 per cent of the vote, down from 50 per cent in the 1995 election. Jean Charest's ruling Liberals—continually as popular after three years in power—finished second, losing less than three percentage points from the previous election. Quebec separatists, the upstart left-wing party, drilled a hole in the side of the PQ, splitting third



LIFOND met his film during his first trip to Paris. He has good contact with people.

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with 22 per cent in their first ever contest. Another troubling statistic: a mere 12 per cent of voters bothered to cast a ballot, in this usually highly politicized neighbourhood. "The Charest government is very unpopular, but the PQ seems unable to capitalize on its weakness," says Claude Gauthier, a senior analyst with CROP, the Montreal polling



WHERE'S THE FIRE? Is Michael still going?

firm. Support for the Parti Québécois has declined by 11 percentage points since André Bouchard became leader last November, he noted. It now stands at 40 per cent, compared to 49 per cent for the Liberals (up two points), "and the PQ's losses have been the new party's gains."

Less than a year ago, the PQ was sailing high, seemingly headed for victory in the next provincial election, which has to be held by April 2003, and launching plans for an early referendum based on polls indicating they could win it. What happened?

"We are now in the post Genshert era," says Gauthier. "The bad guys of the sponsorship scandal have been punished, the Harper government shows a conciliatory attitude toward Quebec, and the PQ is back on the ground, facing the same problems as three years ago." At the time, then party leader Lanthier had declared "a season of ideas": a huge brainstorming that was supposed to breathe new life and fire back into the tired old idea of secession.

That necessary initiative was quickly derailed once the back burner when the sponsorship scandal started drying up the PQ's support in the polls. Perhaps it shouldn't have been. The Parti Québécois' revolution has, in some ways, been a resounding success already: economic imbalance, social inequalities, cultural insecurities—whatever killed the PQ's vote in the 1980s and 1990s has been greatly offset. Thanks, in good part, to the threat of secession. Finding new arguments to fire up well-fed troops for a new battle for secession is Bouchard's biggest challenge. So far, he has fallen way short—and he has no margin for error already. That's the new movie Michael Tremblay reached with his remarks—and the reason they triggered such a fervent reaction.

Now, in balmy weather finally returns after a long, hard winter, Quebec, the political hotbed of Canada, finds itself totally disgraced with the current political leadership. An unpopular Charest is facing an increasingly impatient caucus. The federal Liberals are a spent force, the NDP is a foreign away. And a faltering Bouchard has yet to give his troops a sense of purpose.

Quebecers do not really want to separate from Canada—but they know that they could if it came down to that. So, the only political player able to make a difference in Quebec at the moment is Jacques Harper. And with an upset and panicked PQ as coxswain of the separatist dogma, he now has some room to manoeuvre. Who could have predicted that, just six months ago?

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Why bikers are so poor

They aren't criminal kingpins. Most struggle, living hand to mouth.

BY CHARLIE GILLIS • Since the Hells Angels' inception a half-century ago, the icon of the motorcycle gangster has been sustained by a series of myths. Founders successfully cast themselves as ruthless souls driven to society's margins, though they were more often just common thugs. Next came the biker-as-anti-establisher rebel—a kind of bearded cabellero using sex, booze and violence to express his disdain for the civilizing constraints of home and hearth. Then, as those men became associated with organized crime, the image turned again. In Canada, the word "biker" now conjures a drug lord kingpin, a man who has traded his strings for the deeper spaces and confusion of a new life.



REBELS WITHOUT COIN: Wayne Kelleciro (left) and his renegade biker

standards usually show it. Take Kelleciro. Dogged by a history of crime and violent behaviour, the 36-year-old was known as a new-Nazi pun riot who once wore a U.S. Confederate flag as a gay pride parade.

He had twice lost lower-rung biker clubs before joining the Bandidos, the world's second largest motorcycle gang. But joining a bigger club apparently failed to lift his prospects. Local members had been seeing less action of him, while acquaintances

reduced to trailing former party on an online dating service. "The resulting biker, clearing up his house, and really trying to figure out his life," according to a friend, but he never got the drink. Five was among the eight victims found in April 8.

In some extent, says Quinn, such conservatism demonstrates the squeeze the Hells Angels are exerting on competing organizations. But it also reflects the grinding limitations of life in the underworld: isolation, poverty, constant police surveillance. And while many bikers have been involved in the drug trade, convictions show that most ended in the roles of street-level distribution, among the least profitable parts of the business.

These roles may have been lost in the dawn of biker activity, says Margaret Reese, head of the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime at York University. In their rush to outpace the public that fighting outlaw bikers will require special legislative tools, police have effectively dismantled their ranks. Few of the gangsters, she says. For more, she closely resembles the state of underworld as it is famously described by Thomas Hobbes: many, brutal and in the case of eight, killed men in southern Ontario—about 10.

offer clubs before joining the Bandidos, the world's second largest motorcycle gang. But joining a bigger club apparently failed to lift his prospects. Local members had been seeing less action of him, while acquaintances

THE ACCUSED MURDERER HAD TROUBLE SCRAPING UP MONEY FOR LUNCH

described a man who sometimes had trouble mustering enough cash for lunch.

He won't be the only one paying dearly for his identity. Jamie Raza, a so-called prospect for full membership in the club's Toronto chapter, had supposedly changed his mind about being a biker, so difficult had his life become. A part-time housewife who was trying his hand at software development, the 37-year-old had lost his wife and son and was



THE STRENGTHS OF DEMOCRACY

"The Taliban may be in the habit of cutting people's heads off, but we live in a democracy. Our decision to hold this debate tonight and to discuss in depth the pros and cons of this mission demonstrates one of the strengths of a democracy compared with the unbridled tyranny of the Taliban."—Claude R. Land, B.C. Questionnaire member of Parliament, during the "biker riots" debate on Canada's mission in Afghanistan.

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BEACONING OUT: Major Cpl. Elisabeth Chausbill (center) as Afghan baby

nation-building effort, responsible for the "hearts and minds" component of what Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier often refers to as the "three block war": humanitarian assistance, peace support operations and high-intensity conflict, all within a relatively small area, i.e. three dry blocks. That is the other side to Canada's rather menacing military firepower: the friendly faces of the soldiers who meet with locals, and build schools and medical clinics as well as relationships. As far as the top brass is concerned, this role is as important in Afghanistan as that of the front-line soldiers.

But not everyone agrees, especially not

"THESE GUYS ARE TRAINED TO KILL. I'M TRAINED TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. SOMETIMES WE CLASH."

the soldiers themselves. "Someone dropped the ball," says one officer from the Paramar, rejecting his comment as published. "There's still a lot of fighting to be done out here, but they're using too many resources on CIMIC." In operations like the April Provencer, which sent troops into one of the most dangerous areas in the northern parts of Kandahar province, the relationship between combat troops and CIMIC borders on hostile. "Sometimes they like us, sometimes they don't," says Capt. François Provencer, the robust and soft-spoken commander of a CIMIC team serving at the patrol house in the village of Garabad, the home base for Operation Provencer. "These guys are trained to kill Taliban. I'm trained to build relationships. Sometimes we clash, but we have to remember that this is a learning process."

Afghanistan is a testing ground for the three-block war, which, at some times, Provencer's force itself, has come to Garabad to negotiate with local farmers over compensation for the destruction of fields by helicopter landings and troop movements, as well as finding a local messenger to fix the village road, a section of which has become an impassable mud pit because of heavy rain around the village. The negotiations have gone well, especially with the contractor, who invited Provencer to tea at his house. "That's exactly what I'm looking for," says Provencer. "I want these people to see us as a person, not a uniform. I want living pictures of my family who can show the locals, so they see us in that light."

But the road work has turned sour. Less than an hour after the meeting with the contractor, one of the officers at the patrol house approaches Provencer:

"That road is a security risk," he says, rather brusquely. "We need it fixed."



PROVENCER discusses compensation

This incident highlights how difficult a task Canadian forces. Military planners are playing a risky balancing act: Afghanistan is taking a measured approach while soldiers are in to damage to the morale of Canada's fighting men and women. Provencer is "the developmental warrior," used by Lt.-Col. Ian Hope, commander of First Battalion of the Princess, when he addresses troops at Garabad, often full of deal-outs for soldiers who have seen friends killed by snakes. "How much longer are we gonna be taking it from behind?" one soldier asks in hope—a question he has difficulty answering.

Bringing together combat troops and reconstruction teams is the crucial task Canada will face as their mission in Afghanistan spreads out over the whole of Kandahar province. But for now, a future resistant combat soldier says they are not getting enough respect from other Canadian troops whose job is reconstruction, and they're beginning to grumble. "That will change," says Hope to frustrated battle members. "When they see you come out the base from a vehicle, they will respect you. Eventually, in the meantime, remember you are professional soldiers," he says. But for now and women who drive on action, only words.

CANADA'S KANDAHAR BALANCING ACT

Tensions emerge between our fighting troops—and those dedicated to rebuilding

BY ADAM B. KRAM • It's a troubling moment, that realization that what was supposed to be an exercise in nation-building is in reality a war against good-looking and mortal fight to the finish. Over the past few weeks, with Canadian forces in southern Afghanistan under attack with increasing regularity, soldiers of our Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry are wondering what exactly they are supposed to be doing.

Afghanistan is a war zone. It there's no way

doubt about that, the valley of Taliban attacks should be the most straight. Any talk now of a soft approach is being eaten, and no more so than for the men and women doing the fighting. No longer the back issues being learned in the brief few months of Canada's deployment in volatile Kandahar province, senior officers are making no such gains about Afghan reconstruction. "We cannot adopt a wage mentality," says Maj. Erik Lubert, second in command of the Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kandahar city. Giving in to what he describes as "provocative" would play into the Taliban's hands.

The PRT, along with the Civil-Military Cooperation team (CIMIC), is the blend of Canada's contribution to the Afghan

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BUSINESS

Péladeau's bid to save the Suns



STEVE MILLER

Fear not ye devotees of Quebecor's embattled Sun Media empire, your fearless leader—Pierre Karl Péladeau—is coming to the rescue.

Sure, things may look a little bleak. The most recent polling numbers from the Newspaper Audience Data-Bank showed the Toronto Sun had 453,100 readers on an average day in 2006, down 12 per cent from a year earlier. But the odds are, in essence, not as dire as they seem. Like the Sun and the Journal de Montréal in favour of greenery projects, including Sun Media's new 24-hour, since 2001, the Toronto Sun has lost almost a third of its average weekday readership. All of it and more has shifted over to the Internet.

Things are going better in Ottawa and Edmonton, places where the pressways aren't such a pressing concern, but the financial results still don't look so hot. In the fourth quarter of 2006, Quebecor's newspaper revenue slipped slightly from a year earlier, as did earnings and profit margins. This is due in large part to the fact that 24 Hours, even as it upstages readership from its sister papers, continues to lose money (about \$14 million last year).

The situation is clearly unacceptable, and now the man himself is taking charge. At the beginning of this month, Péladeau stepped down as CEO of Quebecor World, the massive printing business, to become CEO of Quebecor Media, the company's overall stake in the rebuilding of the Sun brand. But, his second has not been uniformly welcomed—a disappointed, in part, too late than flow last month as a turnaround artist. During his tenure as chief of Quebecor World, he had a lot of underlings, dished with various, slanted staff and, ultimately failed to reverse the company's health. The stock rose trading for more than half of what it did a year ago. Not all his fault, but it was hardly a glorious exit.

His defenders point out that some of his most widely maligned moves in previous years were winners. Back in 2000, he paid as as founding \$4.9 billion to acquire Videotron, Quebec's dominant cable company. For a couple of years the acquisition negated the

loss on company results, and ended up as a big gain too much. But now Videotron is the shining jewel in the Quebecor family—with revenue up more than 10 per cent in the fourth quarter and earnings up more than 13 per cent.

Righting the Sun's listing ship, however, will be a bigger challenge. Unlike 2000, the last time Quebecor decided Sun Media needed to be restructured, firing a few hundred people to make the numbers look better simply isn't an option. The strategy this time revolves around something called the Internet—it has to do with computers, isn't it all terribly exciting. Quebecor is in the early stages of an ambitious digital media project, in which all of its properties will work together through the miracle of cyberspace. Interactive features, digital video, blogs, online chats...stop me if you've heard this be-

fore on company results, and ended up as a big gain too much. But now Videotron is the shining jewel in the Quebecor family—with revenue up more than 10 per cent in the fourth quarter and earnings up more than 13 per cent.

Foreboding, the Sun is reporting this party a little late. Once upon a time, Quebecor's name on Web operation was among the most ambitious in Canada. But then 2001 rolled around, Quebecor decided the whole Web thing was an expensive waste of time, and it got into online operations. Now every media company in the world is embracing cyber-

The strategy revolves around something called the Internet—it's all terribly exciting



Photo: Karl Péladeau is the man with a plan

fore. There is even the suggestion that online subscribers will be able to watch video of the Toronto Sun's daily editorial meetings, in which decisions about coverage are made.

On the surface, this seems like the only rational plan. You don't need an M.B.A. to know the Internet is changing the way the world consumes news and entertainment. And you don't need membership surveys to tell you that when your product is available for free on every street corner, charging for it is going to get increasingly difficult—even with Sunshine Girls. There's no arguing with Péladeau's big idea. It's the details that are doable.

space, trying to reach the same sort of audience suggests some analysis, more creativity. But it's not clear that any of this is a match appeal for the core Sun readership, which is generally looking for good sports and crime coverage that can be read quickly on the way to work.

The company faces more immediate challenges than conquering the world of online media and capturing the next generation of news consumers. First, it needs to figure out how to stop losing the readers it already has, and it's not as clear that sophisticated website games are the answer. Offering videos of editorial meetings doesn't seem likely to bring the Internet with a stampede of traffic either. There just aren't that many people dying to know how a really clever headline was discovered.

The Internet project is noble enough on its own terms, but it's a bit like remodeling the basement of a house that is slowly sinking as the ground it sits on erodes. If Quebecor is going to survive as a major player in the Canadian media business, Péladeau needs to make the first big paper profitable and then make the Sun worth buying again, for something other than the ads for ocean resorts. If he can pull that off, he will rightly join the ranks of Canada's great CEOs. But not before. ■



WORKERS' SECRET AGENDA SET IN STONE

Görlitz, a beautiful small town in Germany with a rich architectural heritage, had ambitions to become the European "Capital of Culture" in 2010. A designation of great artists because it had out to Eisen last week, and the town's stone masons probably didn't help the bid. They were hired by the town council to repair a street with cobblestones, but given their knowledge of the town's history, they before anybody noticed the distinct pattern of a wall.



UNPLEASANT AND UNTILTED: But you have to hand, you doctor shares. It goes like this: I am not. You are going to cure me?

OVEREATERS, SMOKERS, AND DRINKERS, THE DOCTOR WON'T SEE YOU NOW

Health care is meant to be open to everyone equally. But some doctors question, even deny, treatment to those with certain vices.

BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER AND BARBARA BIGHTON

It's a touchy subject. So touchy that after an hour-long interview, one Calgary oncologist's surgeon declines to return our calls. From New Brunswick, where a surgeon recently cancelled an operation on a crippled man's leg, a Moncton Hospital spokesman calls asking MedWeek's to stop trying to contact the doctor. At issue: health care for patients with self-destructive vices—

overeating, smoking, drinking or drugs. More and more doctors are rationing their care or knocking them down their waiting lists—whether patients know about the reason or not. Piling on more about: GPs who won't take smokers as patients. Surgeons who demand obese patients lose weight before they'll operate, or tell them to find another doctor. Transplant lists who turn drinkers down flat. Doctors say their decisions make

sense: why spend thousands of dollars on futile procedures? Or the doctors in the push out of frustration: why not make patients accountable for their vices? Others call it simple discrimination. But in a health system with more patients than doctors can treat, whose doctors have discretion over whom they'll take in, some say it's inevitable that problem patients will get ahead of sick (in the view of health officials) less likely intensive care.

So isn't the question if people want to stop hurting themselves, can they really expect the same medical treatment as everyone else? Health care in Canada is supposed to be about equal treatment for all citizens. For some doctors, however, there are patients whose lives equal than others. Winnipeg GP Frederick

Ross is one. In 2004, he told his patients he'd no longer see them if they continued smoking. "I said, this is stupid. I told my patients, you have three months to quit as I am going to ask you to find another doctor," recalls Ross, a general man. "I said, your smoking is impeding any progress in treating you." Some people left in a huff. One challenged him on the basis of human rights (a tribunal later threw the case out). Others—hundreds, he says—stayed and quit smoking.

Caring for some patients avoid an appointment with Dr. Alberto de la Rocha. As a former thoracic surgeon in Timmins, Ont., de la Rocha operated on lung cancer patients for 27 years before quitting. "I found out in an atmosphere of indifference and lack of accountability—public and personal account

ability," says de la Rocha. "I saw how health officials at health in northwestern Ontario, Ontario," says de la Rocha, "took him on hand with smoking. 'You quit like this? I can't see you smoking guy who is supposed to be a surgeon. You are going to do that in whatever condition I am in and that is my right.'"

Not in my operating room, said de la Rocha, who declared that his lung cancer patients would have to minimize their risk of a heart attack on the day of or just after respiratory complications by not smoking for at least five weeks before surgery. "Your surgery will be booked at a time when you are prepared for it," he told them. "And if you continue smoking, I am afraid you are going to have a look for a surgeon hungry enough or feeble enough to take your case on it." (De la Rocha is no stranger to controversy: In April 1991, he received a suspended sentence, three years probation and a six-month suspension of his medical licence for his role in the October 1991 death of a 68-year-old



'SMOKING OR DRINKING IMPACTS ON YOUR HEALTH CARE. THAT'S JUST THE WAY THE WORLD IS.'

lung cancer patient. He admitted during his trial a common substance—potassium chloride—as well as morphine, on her deathbed. The woman's son, who did not know at the time about the deadly shot, and they were very involved with his home environment.

Meanwhile, Dr. Paul Sato, a Calgary orthopedic surgeon, says he's reluctant to proceed with surgery on "involuntary" smokers or the "morally overweight." Nicotine is a pain home loading, Sato explains, before adding that the failure rate in operations where bone must heal to bone is five times higher among smokers. Indeed, even the risk associated with surgery is higher enough, Sato says, to require smokers to quit three months before an operation. If they don't? He goes ahead, but warns: "Look, if this

doesn't heal, I am not going to be very happy and you are going to be miserable." Sato is more definite when it comes to cutting down drug addiction. "I have the option to say, 'I can't form a therapeutic contract with you,'" he says. "If someone has an elective problem and they are not going to comply with my treatment recommendations, I am under no obligation to take them on."

Canada's provincial colleges of physicians—the professional regulatory bodies governing doctors' conduct—have no specific policies in place to stop the practice of denying treatment. "The physician makes recommendations based on what is in the best interest of the patient's health," notes Dr. Bill Pope, registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. "By refusing to accept advice related to major issues with the patient's health, the patient is saying to the doctor, 'I don't believe you, I can't trust you, I can't accept you—and it basically says, I can't work with you.'"

Dr. Ruth Collins Nicks, president of the Canadian Medical Association, stresses that doctors will always provide care in emergency situations. She adds, however, that in cases of "illness-induced problems" brought on by such habits as smoking, "the doctor cannot change those things without the cooperation of the patient. And if the patient isn't willing to co-operate, then it becomes very frustrating for the doctor to have to continue looking after the patient." And, though she says doctors who drop such pa-



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS don't like these people, says a Hamilton identity specialist



SOME DOCTORS HAVE SAID TO PATIENTS, 'DON'T BREAK MY SCALE. DON'T SIT ON MY CHAIR.'

ments are rare, she adds that continuing to treat people who won't change "may not be the wisest use of the few resources we have in terms of doctor availability."

Doctors across the country told *Maclean's* of colleagues who would not take "unethical patients"—smokers, drinkers and the obese—because caring for them would be too complicated, and too much of a burden for their already over-crowded practices. Such patients might, in other words, take longer to treat, reducing the number of patients a doctor can see and bill for. The consequence is an entrenched tendency to choose the less complex, the moderate consumer of red wine and the non-smoker. Says Dr. Edward Schellberg, the registrar at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick: "The idea that smoking or drinking or eating weight impacts on your health-care is just the way the world is."

NOWHERE is this dietism truer than in the realm of the overweight and obese.

Dr. David C. W. Lau, an obesity specialist at the University of Calgary, says there are sound medical reasons to explain why doctors are less likely to want to operate on people who are heavy. "Operating on them would pose a significant increased risk of complications," says Lau. "Surgeons don't like to deal with complications and most like to see their post-op complications go up." The Calgary orthopaedic

surgeon who doesn't want his name used has done thousands of hip and knee replacements on overweight people—but he's not pleased about it. "I should have a silvered plaque," he says. "If patients are overweight, they will wear their out much faster." Plus, he says, "Historically, obese people are at higher risk for surgery. There is higher complication rate. There are healing and pulmonary issues. And they don't mobilize as fast as thin people."

But some doctors say there are many medical factors keeping big Canadians from receiving the same treat-



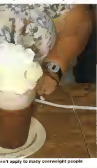
BLAMEWORTHY BEHAVIOURS, like eating unhealthy food, don't apply to many overweight people

ment (all numbers are from Statistics Canada). And the medical community is as guilty of it as the rest of us. "The stereotypes in the medical profession are surprisingly lasting," says Dr. Robert Deane, who heads up weight management clinic at the Ottawa Hospital. "The feeling is that if somebody's overweight, it's because they're eating too much and they're lazy." He adds, "If we want to use older lan-

guage, we find that overweight people are considered guilty of two of the seven deadly sins—gluttony and laziness." The consequences of such discrimination can be subtle—or not.

Dr. Arya Sharma, an obesity specialist at McMaster University in Hamilton, has heard his patients complain of doctors who've told them, "Don't break my scale, don't sit on my chair." He adds, "It's not just doctors—it's nurses, it's dietitians. Health professionals don't like obese people." (For their part, says eating disorders specialist C. Lind Berneking who is the University of British Columbia, "Obese people hate obese people.")

The problem is so ingrained in the medical profession that even those doctors who specialize in obesity dislike their clients, according to a 2003 Yale University study. Questioning 259 members of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity—many of them doctors or obesity counselors—at their annual meeting in Quebec City, researchers found a pro-thin, anti-fat bias based on something called the implicit association test. Subjects were given a list of words that fit into one of four categories. After a practice run where they paired such things as "flowers" with "good" and "in-



their problems," even extending to race discrimination of intelligence and personal worth. Such notions represent an antiquated view, says Durr. In a study aimed at matching the different types of obesity with some 400 different genes that he's conducting with Ruth McPherson, director of the Lipid Clinic at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Deane is looking at 1,000 overweight and obese patients recently referred with 1,000 persons who are underweight. About half of the thin people "are eating as much or more than our obese patients," says Deane, who then adds the counterpoint example: "We occasionally have to see people who won't lose weight on 500-calories a day." (The average Canadian's daily intake is about 3,300 calories.) Some physicians call this the burden of genetic overweight. Over-reflexive. "We don't all have lost genes because they caused the burden," says Dr. Lawrence, who notes that in the history of humanity, a skinny guy like me wouldn't have made it.

Last year, England weighed in on the question of why and here physicians for the obese (who had to put more strain on our health points) when their health boards in East Suffolk said they'd no longer approve them for fat people. "We weren't aware that this wasn't stimulated by the pressing financial problems of the National Health Service in East Suffolk," Brian Korbik, the director of



TECHNOLOGY IS SO EXPENSIVE. THE SYSTEM WILL RUN OUT OF MONEY UNLESS PEOPLE CHANGE.

the obese is only anyway, the decision-makers were still about the bottom line.

There's an arguing that in Canada, too, health care costs are skyrocketing. In 2000, Statistics Canada added up the total bill at \$979 billion. The Confederation of Canadian provinces, when adjusted for inflation, health care costs will total \$147 billion in 2020. Also staggering: vision care as a percentage for high-fat foods and cigarettes are really strapping up the cash register. The fall out from obesity, says UCB's Birmingham, now accounts for five per cent of total health care costs, or \$6 billion a year. "You've heard that phrase 'obesity is the new smoking,'" says Ross in Winnipeg. "Well, private health care is going to move into Canada because of the costs of bad behaviour." A new heart—\$50,000. Liver? \$100,000. Lung? Somewhere in the neighbourhood of half a million. Indeed, Dr. Gary Levy, the medical director of Toronto General Hospital's multi-organ transplant program, says unhealthy living is simply unaffordable. "We are getting to the point where we can control

public health in growth. Primary Care Trust in East Suffolk, and at the time. While local doctors in three that support behind the health board's move became replacing weight-bearing parts in the obese is only anyway, the decision-makers were still about the bottom line.

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WHAT THE GP ORDERED: Winnipeg doctor Ross told his patients, "You have three months to quit smoking—or leave!"

life. And that in a smoking society is going to have to come to grips with because it's ecology is more and more expensive. If we can't change people's behavior, look, I am going to tell you, we are going to run out of money. We probably have run out of money." Levy says 75 per cent of the patients he sees need transplants because of their own excesses.

The burden on our health care system is so high that some propose making more people pay for health care. "The most moral of behavior and policy can choose to alter their behavior, can choose to go to the gym more often—there are direct things." If you can't persuade your self to live that way, or so the argument goes, why make the rest of us foot the bill? "We have a universal program, really, to protect people from the risks of alcohol and fat," says Durr. "And so the optimal solution is to say to them, your behaviour is going to incur higher health costs over your lifetime and so, because you can control this, you should be paying higher health premiums."

For GPs, it's also a question of a volume-driven health care system that gives them little incentive to tackle true cost-cutting, complex ones. The more time a doctor spends with a patient, the fewer patients can be seen and the less revenue generated for a doctor's practice. It's the kind of hard hat levels to frustration. "Many of these individuals continue their lifestyle unaltered," says Lau. "And not only are they not losing weight or hold-



THE FALLOUT from obesity is already \$5 billion a year

PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS PRIGGE (TOP); MARTIN RABIN/ALAMY (BOTTOM)

PHOTO: MARGARET MASON FOR MACLEAN'S



THE REALITY? DOCTORS CAN CHOOSE THE BEST CANDIDATES FOR ANY ELECTIVE PROCEDURE.

ing their weight, they're continuing to gain weight while they're on the surgical waiting list. So, between the time the surgeon sees them and the time they're operated on, there may be a significant increase in weight." In the words of the anonymous Calgary heart and hip surgeon, doctors "feel like we are beating our heads against the wall," trying to treat chronically overweight patients in a much more understaffed, underpaid medicine.

And then there's the garden variety perma-dancer on the part of doctors who believe obese patients are unoperable because they can't control themselves. "Doctors can pick and choose their patients because there are still places where there are more patients than doctors can handle," says Dr. Andrew Weil, a cardiologist at Ottawa Hospital. "One

they pick the best candidates? Sure." How do doctors pick and choose? The Calgary orthopedic surgeon says he never at least to his surgery on overweight people. But, he says, knee and hip replacements are elective. "They are not a matter of life and death." And? "A doctor can tell an operation any way they want. If I see someone with a so-so joint and they are overweight, I may tell them to wait." How long? How long? It's not to two years.

ONE PATIENT whose lifestyle was a factor in her decision to have surgery was a 45-year-old home-

maker, Kelley Bartlett, of Burlington, Ont. Bartlett is forthcoming about her weight—she's five feet eight and weighs 245 lbs. Overweight since her early 30s, Bartlett recently lost 50 lbs. and was feeling pretty good about herself. Then her GP diagnosed a hernia and sent her to a general surgeon for an assessment. "The hernia is quite large," she says, "and, yes, there is fat in my stomach too." The surgeon was brutal. "After the surgery, you will still have a bulge," he told her before adding, "I am not a plastic surgeon—I don't do tummy tucks."

Bartlett was crushed. "He couldn't have been any blunter! He said there was only a 50 per cent chance of success because of my weight," she says. "I said how many gains and lose weight before I saw him again in April."

tried to tell him that I had already lost quite a bit of weight and that I hoped to lose more." He wasn't interested, Bartlett says. "I didn't choose to be like this," she adds.

In New Brunswick, a surgeon decided Robert Randall could wait—forever. Fifty-two, 42 years old, Randall lives with his wife and two of their four children in a tiny crossroads called Albert Mills, about 70 km south of Moncton. Randall used to fish for lobster and scallops on the Bay of Fundy. But he hasn't done much of anything except yallow in pain since the night in February 2004 when he drove his semi-truck into a tree, fracturing his right femur and shattering his knee. The throbbing stuck open, Randall explains, but he also admits he'd been drinking. The accident earned Randall an ambulance ride to a Moncton hospital and emergency surgery to repair a mangled leg. That was soon followed by a second surgery to fix the damage Randall did by trying to balance on his good leg while the jarring road he uses to heat the family house. A third surgery, during which orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Steven Masson amputated him in a full body cast, didn't "take," says Randall—adding the fact that he had to wear crutches and "swear right to the letter on what the doctor told me."

Well, not quite. Randall is a lifelong smoker; he began in grade 10 when he was to give up despite his surgeon's warning that nicotine would slow the healing process. "I said, 'I've got all the time in the world,'" Randall says, obviously willing to grant that "slow" might mean not now. In January, his fourth surgery—the one he thought would involve a bone graft—was cancelled with no delay "meeting," says Randall, after Masson's assistant called to say the surgeon wouldn't operate. There was no plan to reschedule.

Randall says he doesn't understand why his doctor cancelled the procedure. Schallerberg, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick, says the doctor's primary goal is the patient's life. The central issue "was whether the patient's lifestyle—including his two-pack-a-day habit—would impact on the results of surgery." Randall's repeated surgeries didn't help. "Doing that many procedures in the same area is asking for trouble—and it is compromised significantly by the patient smoking."

A LIFELONG SMOKER, Randall, at home in Albert Mills, can't walk without a cane.

Why then the benefits of a procedure on such the risks to up to the doctor, not the patient, adds Schallerberg. "Robert Randall thought he was entitled."

That doesn't help Randall much. In one moment and with a single leg that now "bowl" with his weight, he survives on welfare, the meagre he gets from his family doctor, and a steady stream of hand-rolled cigarettes "just sitting there staring at the walls," says Randall, "if I didn't smoke, I would go crazy."

All of this might come as a shock to those health professionals who side with the notion of justice for all. "It is in our medical system, we start blaming people for whatever condition they have, then we can probably close down our hospitals—because 90 per cent of the medicine that we do is related to people's lifestyles," says Sharma, the Hamilton obesity specialist. The move in the U.K. to restrict surgical procedures based on weight, says David Pilling, scientific director of the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, "doesn't mean greatly because I am wary of leaving such decisions up to the physician."

But that is exactly what's happening right here, right now. Dr. New Randall, the medical officer of health for the Northwestern Health Unit in Ontario, is one doctor who says he's known colleagues to decline problem patients. "I have a sympathy for those cases because I know what it's like to treat someone you pick up the pieces and they don't change their behaviour," he says. Randall has campaigned actively against such destructive behavior to smoking, but he still doesn't agree with doctors who won't treat smokers. "In this job, we don't have a right to pick and choose. We have a duty of care. When does it say in the Hippocratic oath, 'I will only treat people who are well?'"

Ron, the Winnipeg doctor who dumped his smoking patients, doesn't mind the history he's generated in the process. When he first moved out his physician four years ago, his colleague kept telling him the media didn't. CNN called him. So did a TV station in New Zealand. Ethical, meanwhile, lived up to its word, even, among the Canadian Medical Association's first to condemn and responsibility. "Consider first the well-being of the patient," said Ron at the time, "I have been involved, killed and downing I don't grant for taking this stance." Still, he never minded. After all, the CMA's fourth fundamental principle is "Considering the well-being of society in matters affecting health." Says Ron, "Forty-four thousand people a



THE CMA'S NUMBER ONE RESPONSIBILITY: CONSIDER THE WELL-BEING OF THE PATIENT

living styles. We need to convince people of the value of living healthy lifestyles and when the cost is, not only to themselves and their families, but to society."

Dr. La Rochelle adds little more.

year are still dying in Canada of smoking-related disease. I don't want to be any more modest. We can fix this." Why don't more doctors follow his example without tough love? "Because we are seen as the nice guys. That is our role."

So when can a doctor expect an individual patient—the smoker, the overeater, the boozier—to take that long, hard look at the mirror and say "I quit," "I lose," "I stop," "I stop"? All of it to do things that are not good for us. The reality is we go to fast-food restaurants. We drive too fast. We should cut our salt intake. We need to educate all elements of society. We have an obligation: we have to put the brakes on bad

patterns. There are some diseases where medical science and a physician are just not good enough to fix the problem, he says. "We have built a society that is complacent, that is soft, that underestimates, that has unrealistic expectations, and that has deeply ingrained a sense of entitlement. We have to say to patients, 'I am sorry, man, you are going to have to become responsible for your own health and that means addressing the issue of your tobacco addiction, addressing the issue of your sedentary life, addressing the issue of your very modest and unhealthy eating habits, and eating the issue of your excessive drinking. Do something for yourself!'"

THE PIGGYBACK VACCINE? THINK YELLOW

Scientists are tinkering with one of the oldest and most reliable ways to live—the yellow fever—as a potential carrier for portions of other vaccines, such as one for malaria. The yellow fever vaccine is prized for its extremely effective, single-dose, lifetime effect. Scientists have stimulated immunity in humans in mice using a yellow fever dose injected in right muscle. This 10-year-old vaccine could even carry HIV and malaria fighters.



RATING OURSELVES TO DEATH BY DECISIONS "You'd be hard to pick, usually it's the low-calorie diet."

PHOTOGRAPH BY JARVIS BELL/REUTERS



Imagine a video game that flexes your mental muscles rather than your thumbs.



And instead of a game for kids, this one was created for you—a kid at heart, if you will. Impossible, you say?

Attn! Video games made for 12-year-olds who want to blast away when or wherever (or alone, alone!!!).

Introducing *Brain Age*! Train Your Brain in Minutes a Day!, a new kind of video game that exercises your brain and flexes your mental muscles—even with just a few minutes of play a day.

Designed for the Nintendo DS—you know, that portable gaming system that everyone seems to be talking about these days—*Brain Age* features a series of fun, brain-sharpening exercises. They range from reading and counting exercises and word games to jigsaw challenges. You can also play the wildly popular Sudoku number puzzle (without feeling pregnant on your hands!).

In case you haven't picked up a Nintendo DS yet, this handheld gaming system features two colour screens. One is touch-sensitive, so you can use the handheld style to write on it like a PDA. You can even run this Nintendo

DS around and hold it sideways like a book, if you like. Some of the mini-games in *Brain Age* also let you speak into the Nintendo DS microphone. But unlike kids, the Nintendo DS won't talk back.

By completing these mental challenges, the goal of the game is to lower your "DS brain age" to 35, the peak brain age, according to Dr. Ryuzo Kawasawa, the Japanese neuroscientist whose work inspired Nintendo's video game. An animated version of Dr. Kawasawa serves as the game's built-in host—yes, personal trainer—so he instructs you on what to do and how you're progressing.

In other words, consider *Brain Age* a gym membership for the mind. And you can climb on the equipment anytime, anywhere—without fear of working out behind the twenty guy with the show-shorts.

Go ahead, pick up *Brain Age*. And don't see your eye



BRAIN AGE
Train Your Brain in Minutes a Day!
NINTENDO DS

Learn more at BrainAge.com

Nintendo

SOCIETY



GOTTA GETTA BUMP

Who cares who's dating whom, when you can guess who's pregnant?

BY SHARDA DEZIEL • One of the worst things you can say to a woman is, "So, when are you due?" What if, God forbid, she isn't pregnant? What if she's blessed, jacking couple at least pounds or just wearing a drumpy top? And yet, lately celebrity magazines have been publicly asking that very question of every star with a uterus. *Entertainment Weekly* is gaffing up her list—Star and Lefty's 31st issue already spawning a new baby bump (yacht don't look like weight after the birth of Sean Penn's seven months ago). *Rolling Stone* is photographed with his hand on Demi Moore's stomach—Star asks, "Does he know something we don't?" A picture of Charlie Sheen has her stomach hidden behind boyfriend Stuart Townsend's backside (the photo agency didn't want a growing midsection. "It can be creepy," says *Rolling Stone*'s managing editor of North America, Wendy Kopp). "It's just a guess," says *Rolling Stone*'s managing editor, says Kopp, "they try to be more gentle, say and careful—but *Entertainment Weekly* is obsessed with baby bumps, having at least one pregnancy cover story a month since launching in October. "We have a professionally female readership," she says, "and we know that these women strike a chord with women. Anything involving pregnancy, marriage, co-parenting, divorce is a really hot sell—at least as they're A-list celebrities."

Let's get pregnant, it's all about it. Last week, pregnancy trumps all other news items as it seems that getting knocked up is the new diet. "Celebs now skip the whole cooking phase," says Kopp, "and go right to getting pregnant." Like Tim Cruise and Katie Holmes, and Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. "These babies will be born in the eye of the storm," says *Entertainment Weekly* and *Rolling Stone* because of the couch-jumping and fecalology preaching and Angelina's because she was viewed as the woman who broke up one of the most beautiful marriages in Hollywood.

It's important to both a spec or confirm a helping belly. Jordan's reason, Jennifer Aniston has seemingly been pregnant for years—first with Brad's sperm, now with Vince Vaughn's. "Any time she scratches her stomach," says *Entertainment Weekly* photo guy George F. Munoz, "they say that pregnant." Recently, actresses Penelope Cruz and Milla Jovovich have had their stomachs scrutinized. Yet none of these women clocked bigger than a size 2. It's enough to make the average non-celebrity non-pregnant reader think, "If they're

IF CRUZ LOOKS PREGNANT, THEN THE AVERAGE READER MUST BE THINKING, 'I'M EXPECTING TRIPLETS'

pregnant, then I must be expecting triplets."

It's a long way from the days when "being with child" was a taboo topic in Hollywood and Lucille Ball couldn't say the word "pregnant" on TV. When author Sandra Matthews and Laura Winkler were researching their book, *Pregnant Pictures* (2000), they found that throughout history there were almost no photographs of famous women pregnant. Lucille Ball and Jackie Kennedy being exceptions.

This came from *The Famous 1950s* by Nancy Kopp. Her cover showing Demi Moore naked and pregnant in a medical headshot, submitted to the idea of the pregnancy pregnancy and the timing meaning "that image showed the pregnancy as a possession," says Winkler. "It's like a shopping bag, the way



SPRAY! BELLY is under surveillance, while 2006 has the ideal baby bump

she's holding her belly. She has the big diamond ring, she's incredibly sleek and elegant, and she also has this designer baby."

From then on, there was no escaping public, perfect A-list pregnancies: Madonna, Julia Roberts, Reese Witherspoon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Courteney Cox, etc.

"The bump is almost like a dangerous accessory. It's very dangerous to be pregnant, then I must be expecting triplets." It's a long way from the days when "being with child" was a taboo topic in Hollywood and Lucille Ball couldn't say the word "pregnant" on TV. When author Sandra Matthews and Laura Winkler were researching their book, *Pregnant Pictures* (2000), they found that throughout history there were almost no photographs of famous women pregnant. Lucille Ball and Jackie Kennedy being exceptions.

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RUSSIA: THE FISHING TRIP WAS A BLANK

Three Siberian anglers thought they'd catch fish in an illicit but highly effective way—hooking dynamite into the water. Although illegal in Russia, the technique struck back and brought them to the surface for easy pickings. So the trio sat out from Moscow took for a trip to their fishing haunt in Ussuriysk. It ended prematurely when the dynamite exploded on the line. No one was injured, but one of the crew was hospitalized.





TATTLE TALES: NYC's premier scandal sheet is itself named in scandal, Ontario Times

Our own Page Six is deep-sixed

In Canada, we've killed the fine tradition of the gossip column

BY JONATHAN CAFFEYER • There was a time when it didn't take much to shake the pillars of Canadian society. Back in 1967, the *Globe and Mail* caused consternation in Toronto's better social circles simply by printing a list of names. Columnist Zora Cherry had obtained the lowdown on the residents of the ritzy new Sutton Place apartment hotel. The problem was, many of the gentlemen cited hadn't bothered to inform their wives about their swinging post-dinner, or about the babes sharing them. It's unclear how far left into the hands of a journalist in one of our big-city dailies today, it's arguable whether it would even make the paper. That's because gossip writing has all but disappeared from the Canadian media landscape. And it doesn't look like it's coming back anytime soon.

New York City, on the other hand, and much of the U.S. press, is transfixed by a little bit of last-century scandal making the New York Post. Just Paul Paul Simon, an Ottawian mixed with a bit of the tabloid's infamous Page Six gossip column, stands accused of trying to sweeten more than US\$200,000 from Rita Barberis in exchange for keeping the super-musical-bollywood's name and image out of the paper. (Start the story broke, there have been revelations of pills, trips and cozy business arrangements between other Page Six natives and their occasional targets.) But it's an untouchable embargo for media on this side of the border, and not because of any superior ethics or tougher laws. It's simply because we have no columnists that business

types, entertainers or society stragglers dread enough to try to keep their names out of.

It wasn't always that way. At one time almost every paper in the nation threatened high society gatherings and kept close tabs on the drinking and driving habits of politicians, sports figures and local big names.

"People were very interested in what their neighbours were doing," says William Weinraub, a veteran journalist and author of *Cry Havoc: A History of the Tough and Rumble Mentality of the 1940s and '50s*. The *Gazette*, the *News* and the *Star* (whose language competitors had duelling columns devoted to the city's rich nightlife. They covered the earnings and goings of hockey players such as Maurice "Rocket" Richard, and rumormongered characters like the exotic dancer Lily St. Cyr and boxers named semi-sensational Skiles and Sirokin into beside references. Whiskey-soaked rags such as *Week*, *Flash* and *Midnight* (which later merged into the *Globe* newspaper) tabloid) picked upon the anecdotes and divorces that newspaper would touch. And all that was required to keep a story out of print was a single trifling. "The thing to do is get a good with the gossip columnist was to send her a



box of liquor once in a while," says Weinraub. But those columns, once newspaper fixtures, began to die out along with their sources in the 1970s, and had pretty much been banished from the quality dailies by the late 1980s. In part, that trend may simply be a question of economics. The cost of being wrong when it comes to gossip in Canada has risen steeply in the past few decades. It's not that Canadian laws have changed, says Roger McCord, a Vancouver lawyer who specializes in libel cases. Courts in this country have long been "unsympathetic" to those who publish rumours or innuendo, especially innuendo when to the U.S., where public figures have to prove not just that information wasn't true, but that it was printed maliciously. Increasingly in Canadian courts, however, judicial disapproval is translating into hefty verdicts. By McCord's count, there have been more than 60 libel awards in excess of \$100,000 handed down since the precedent setting *Phillips v. Bentley* case (a Canadian record \$1.6 million judgment) was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1995.

Another explanation for the decline, and our culture, have changed. With the exacting pace of live, 24-hour news rebroadcast, then the celebrity-driven television shows like *Entertainment Tonight* and the Internet, Canadians' notion of fame of relevance is now Hollywood, not homegrown. "Everybody knows that Gwyneth Paltrow has had a baby and named him Moses," says writer Seymour Chwast, who once covered the society beat for the *Globe and Mail*. "But people may not know, or care, that Catherine Nagler is back in Toronto society."

But while "notebook" columns filled with the weekly humorous odd and ends of Canadian political life proliferated, and the recently resurrected *Frank* magazine fills the search demand for scandalous stuff, something is missing, says Simon. "We've lost something in not having our own street to talk about." In Canada giving a victim of gossip attacks? This country's critical press: we are already busy pleasing a voracious 30 use it. At least that's the rumour. ■

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THE CURSE OF THE UNBORN

James Snyder and Mary Jo Jansen published a death notice in the *Windsor Star*, Ontario. The couple were grieving the death of David Redford, Jansen's 17-year-old son, who they said had endured a lengthy illness at Minnesota's Mayo Clinic. But when David alerted the police that he was actually not dead, they charged Snyder and Jansen with tampering with records, which they said pulled the plug. They awaited a few days off work



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TRADING CARE OF BUSINESS: Cottage owners can range from fully wired designer havens to a choice by the lake.

You call this working?

Cottagers with laptops and email discover the ultimate corner office

BY BARBARA ROXBOROUGH • The cottage used to be a small wooden building set on a barren outcropping with half-broken radio towers perched on the shore. Work at the cottage meant being in the dock. Or maybe, in peace and quiet, writing the great Canadian novel. Not anymore. Now, nearly a half-century of thousands of weekenders use their Pathfinders and peep out of cities on Friday afternoons, many will head for getaways that look and feel more like second homes. And their work will be of the corner variety, facilitated by cellphones and computers and the service providers that find them.

"Up until a few years ago, people went to the cottage to relax. But there are a lot of business people now who need to stay connected," says David Johnson, owner of David's Marlinas South and Vision in Deseronto, Ont., who links cottages to at least 100 owners who have high-speed Internet in God's country. "They can never get away from work," says Terry Auer, the executive director of the 50,000-member Federation of Ontario Cottage Owners' Associations.

But they are not going to home offices at the cottage that came from a table on the dock to fully renovated designer havens. And while they work, they can listen to the water lapping at the shore or imagine how nice it would be to paddle a canoe. The Internet is the most important feature in this cottage business office, across major Georgian Bay islands, who sells homes in Toronto and cottages in the Thousand Islands. "To match the demand, many new cottages are built with pre-wired offices," Korditsky says, because, "The thought of being in the woods without a computer is too scary." "No one ever admits to a space

for a home office when they look at a house," says Collingwood broker "Vil" Davis. "They do ask for broadband Internet across all the time. And they all have their BlackBerry on their hips. We worked very hard to get the technology up here because most of corporate Canada comes upon the weekends and if they lose their signal, they're pissed."

Cottage trader David Swenson has a business near Orillia, Ont., where he runs out mobile glass pieces with pre-wired paint studios. Ninety-five per cent of them go into waterfront properties. Swenson did one approximately \$30,000 job for an executive that included a custom pine desk and matching built-in cabinetry. But mostly, he says, clients do their work at their harvest tables.

'THE THOUGHT OF BEING IN THE WOODS WITHOUT A COMPUTER IS TOO SCARY,' SAYS ONE REALTOR

(It's \$600 for a seven-hour) or the stands in their cottage kitchens (\$1,000 to \$30,000).

"It's a mobile world," he says with a laugh. Jonathan Grant is a developer who works weekends at the family cottage on Lake of Bays, around the corner from House of the Future, near Huntsville, Ont. He beaches out his laptop on the screened-in porch in the early morning hours while his family sleeps. On Lake of Bays, high-speed is not available, so Grant uses his cellphone as a modem to connect to the Internet. "It would rather sit at the table than be at the office in the city,"

he says, "especially knowing that after I have put away two or three hours, I can head down to the dock and go for a swim or a walk on the shore."

Penny Caldwell, editor of Cottage Life magazine, admits that technology has created a mixed blessing. After "off-the-grid" Muskoka place, the recent addition of solar power meant that last year, for the first time, she could keep her laptop charged all weekend. Some of Johnson's clients in Deseronto have created mini-offices in terms of work and play. Cottage owners let them sleep or in more so-called down time. "Now they are finding, 'I have a four-day weekend at the cottage while I am still doing work,'" he says. If there's an emergency, most don't let it bother them. As Johnson says, "In the old days, the family would often have to go to the cottage without the dad. Now, maybe he's on the Internet, but at least he's there."

Russ doesn't quite see it this way. "Technology is changing the sense of place," he says. He has a cottage in the Kawartha. "I don't want to cross that line between what is a retreat in the woods and what is a suburban existence," he says. Caldwell agrees. "The more of our city lives we bring to the cottage," she says, "the less cottage country is a natural wilderness." Still, she's nostalgic about the old days. "Some of what cottage did in the early 1900s was her rite," she says. "In the winter, they would take out the things they didn't want—beds and furniture—sleep and leave things on the ice and it would melt and everything would go down to the bottom of the lake." In that light, fully wired cottages seem positively primitive. ■

DENNIS HOPPER AND THE ART OF MARRIAGE

The veteran actor is remorseful over his five failed marriages, especially because each ex-wife carried away portions of his collection of pop art, including works by Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol, whom Hopper knew personally. Hopper married one of Warhol's famous soup-can muses for 10 years, but he says it wasn't his fault. He says he tried to manipulate his collection, but he can't remember which wife took which picture.

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weekend explosives tinkering highlight is a factor. Manchester first met her in the case of Barmad, who received a parole grandstand pass purely on the strength of his claim to be a Swiss journalist. Bider's pre-war society was a joke—in Munich, where it was in the hands of his old street-fighter comrades from the party's formative years, it segued on run amok. For those who wanted the Bider deal, the Bavarian capital was the place to strike.

reaching to make the call. The original plan was for him to fly back after his speech. But Hitler's personal pilot was worried by the gathering fog at Munich airport, and the dictator's treasurer decided he would leave by overnight train. That meant Hitler would have to address his old comrades at 8 p.m., about an hour earlier than usual.

IN 1939, WITH FOG THREATENING HIS RETURN TRIP TO BERLIN, HITLER ENDED A SPEECH EARLY. MINUTES LATER, THE BOMB WENT OFF.

**IES RETURN
SPEECH
B WENT OFF.**

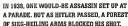


gallery, killing eight and wounding 42.

When I heard about it, I said his room, the father soon came to the conclusion that the band of Providence had saved him. Over the years, his accounts of that night so far, those years were exhibited like his life, from the last voice that whispered "Get out, get out," and when he told the photographer Hans Rüdiger, "I had the most extraordinary feeling, I felt compelled to leave the cellar as quickly as possible." Moorehead couldn't believe the escape, a life moment in Hitler's dark secret in entanglement. Adulatory coverage of the diene intervention angle, typically shipped up by propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels, and telegram from the sign set-widens—including Pope Pius XII—could only have helped build that feeling.

A new book reveals more than 40 plots, some of which came heartbreakingly close
BY BRIAN BETHUNE

393. Munich police shot dead the man beside him a few metres the other way, and the former fighter would hardly merit a footnote in history books. Later on, Hitler would change his plot just as his assassins were poised to strike, or they would demonstrate a last training, kill one of his enemies dead. But maybe, some historians argue, it was all for the best – at least once the tide of war had turned against the Nazis, despite the millions of deaths in its later stages. After Hitler had reached the pinnacle of his success – and simultaneously begun the process of Gas



By 1938 and the infamous March 1941, it was no longer possible to discuss Hitler as a spontaneous deranged beast; to turn him back into a character, it was necessary to

obvious to many that Europe was sliding into a new configuration, one Hitler's opponents were quite likely to lose. Thoughts of secessionism were bubbling to the surface everywhere, within and without Germany. In November of that year, Hitler came to



**SET UP AT
A FOREST**

IS SHOT. screwed himself up to act on the spot. A devout, 27-year-old Swiss Catholic, Burreuss was angry about the Nazi persecution of his Church. Some weeks earlier, he had crossed into Germany, haphazardly looking for an opportunity to shoot Hitler. Now, pistol in pocket and bearing a grandstand pass he had picked up by posing as a journalist, he was ready. But he

ward planning was not Fawcett's forte. As Hitler approached, a force of sightless aides went up to block the shooter's vision, and the father pressed wildly by the console, Fawcett decided to head in France, but he had shared about Germany for too long. Out of money, he tried to sneak on a Paris-Boston train, he was caught by a wine cap and headed over to the Georgia Coast. Hitler's Jewish secret police had a look at Fawcett's luggage—surrendering he was still carrying with him his pistol, ammunition and a map of Hitler's Dornier garden secret—his arrest was headline. He was imprisoned.

George, too, for his part, attended the parade solely to look for future opportunities. He was a struggling carpenter worried about the onrush of war, but not a trifling social or pacifist, and his race reports remain unclear. That neither discrimination or patient performance. As he headed home to the small town of Kalamazoo, Mich., 35, died and he would stream with vengeance during the next youth anniversary celebration. He would plant a bomb in the Burger King that would kill Hitler during his speech, and so many other leading Nazis as possible.

With a year to prepare, Elser had no problem finding opportunities to test a fuse and gunpowder from his employers, an American manufacturer. Next, he switched jobs to a quarry, where he purchased dynamite and a detonator. Lacking experience with explosives, Elser spent his weekends blowing things up in fields around his home. That's untroubled life of theft from sensitive industries and

would arrive at the Bürgerbräu for dinner every night at about 5 p.m. An hour later, he would wash up and find his roomers wait the bar closed. Then he'd work by flash light until the building opened again at 7:30, before heading out the back entrance.

His first task couldn't wait: three nights. Careful to collect every speck of evidence, Allen started a parol out of the pillar's wooden scaffolding, and saved it into a bush-fiber umbrella case. Then, with four weeks' work, hand drill, hammers and chisel, Allen dug out a cavity for the bomb, with infinite care. He planned to be safely in bed when the "father day" would, so he crafted a 144-hour timer: put it in a work lined box (for *his* use), and lined the inside of his secret goal with tape so it wouldn't "roll" while it counted (a tape he'd then install all on Nov. 2, two months before he started his night shifts, and so days before his deadline. On Nov. 5, he started the timer, and set it to go off three days later at 9:30 p.m.—roughly the usual midpoint of Allen's annual speech.

But this was wrong to think it could be business as usual in the Weimars; the night Hitler had intervened. Two months earlier Hitler had invaded Poland, and was now impatient to move on to France. Manning for a western offensive was in maximum danger. Nov. 9 was decision day, with everything hanging on the weather forecast. (In the end conditions were unfavorable, and the invasion of France was put off until the spring of 1940.) On the afternoon of the 9th, though, Hitler was prepared to be in Berlin in the

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The high-priced mad of Cam, don't know how to live on the macramé floor of Tremont's Holt Renfrew store on Bloor Street. Which is no good a place to say to the taste the people who want to see the shoes that shopping this season. There sit the \$795 plus \$100 in \$100 high-heeled sandals had to see with the 1996 slushback. And just next to the Mac Jacobs cream parlor pop-ups—\$495 and sold out except for one shoe \$15—is a private label, also acquired, pop-up platform shoe as the style of Dorothy off to see the Wizard of Oz (1989). Only one little problem: heaves like a cone of clay, doped in the same blue color as they're called toes.

Babies are born with so of them, usually, and they are sweet, wiggly little things, perfectly smooth with peevy nails. They may be the last moment in life for most of us that toes should be deliberately displayed. The human foot was not designed to wear shoes, at least not the structured little wonders that replaced the post-coxist, bark and fiber slippings. By the time a modern woman reaches her thirties and, heaves for, for two, her feet have been used into shoes that do to them what the rack and saw muscles do to the human form. The result is a row of curves and calluses, of toenail overgrowth followed by the application of polish, and toes turned into shapes once only seen on the twisted feet of clowns.

Which makes it all the more peculiar that for the past few seasons, grown-up shoes have been showing more and more toes. A trend moves by south and one day it is in the photo into one toes like rap and a baby. In this trend, shoes lose their toe boxes. Designers seemed eating all the ends of every-

When the shoe doesn't fit

Baby-hood may be the last moment in life for most of us when our toes should be on view. And there's nowhere to hide this spring.

BY BARBARA AMIEL



PHOTO: MICHAEL KAPLAN. A woman's new style comes a new need for foot care.

thing from sandals to boots until, by this season, the exception became the closed pump. Like all trends, a shoe's step in the atmosphere of the shoe shoe. The flyer for Town shoes (price range \$99 to \$135) shows almost exclusively open-toe shoes, with the exception of running shoes. Trying to find a stylish summer shoe that covers toes and can be worn into the office or party night at school is like looking for fogfoot. Now you see it, now you don't—they're been swapped up by designers but normal house shoes—and only the horned green snake pair is left. A few shoes lean such as Bally and reflect the 1990s trend: welded to the shoe's sole, but with elastic uppers that would hang by into 1990s. (See page 10.)

Added to the shoe-and-see epidemic is what André Leon Talley, *Vogue's* editor-at-large, calls "the cult of the ugly shoe," which, he explains, "clunky shoes." These are shoes with wood and leather platform or wedge three, four, five inches high, and deliberately thick back uppers. These are a sophisticated and high-priced version of the same shoe you find in (and around about) on poor 15-year-old designer (half a dozen years ago, when even the, agile and youthful, trotted on their implausible heights. Now, explains New York magazine's young fashion issue, featuring Balmain's horrendous leather, stiletto gladiator sandals (US\$1,895), the "well-heeled" are "aggressively styled and at risk for occasional upsets."

To help us not forget this ugly party, a subsection of them has been named. Leading the way is foot doctor Suzanne, surgical podiatrist Dr. Suzanne Levine of the New York Podiatry Hospital, and her aesthetic practice, Institute Aesthetic. The new bid for natural looking normals, befitting without nail polish, requires unusual solutions: grow that terrible yellow with age as well as from the prolonged use of polish. So her pedicures include laser bleaching for yellowed toenails (US\$100). Scattered or deficient toes can be injected with Botox so that any unsightly tendons are eliminated. Pedicure IPL lasers can eliminate hyperpigmentation in feet. "It kills off the melanin in cells so it won't show the skin," says Levine, who has many Mediterranean clients with

usiveness skin coloring. In Toronto, the Elizabeth Milne Day Spa at the Fairview Royal York hotel is considering less medical procedures that laser work, such as chemical peels with glycolic acid, to improve aged facial skin before being treated with a honey and milk pedicure.

"I don't make fun of my patients," says Dr. Levine, who did draw the line at one who wanted liposuction for her nose. "I now have foot problems and had to wear orthopedic shoes most of my childhood and now I'm the only podiatrist who wears heels most of the day." She rejects botox in fact afflicted with hyperhidrosis (a path name for excessive sweating). The Boston (Boston)

and writer (The company also settled a US\$40 million lawsuit over lawsuits with executives who claimed they weren't hired or were forced to work behind the scenes because they didn't fit the A & F "look") just how much effect the Abercrombie look had on fashion is one of those chicken-and-egg stories, but around the same time, fashion's top people like Vogue editor Anna Wintour started turning up everywhere with bare legs all though winter (though delicately not in flip-flops), and the models on the pages of the glossy magazines did the same.

On Anna Wintour and Gisèle Bündchen, the bare-legged look was a smash. On named middle-aged women, it was definitely less than done. Legs, never mind feet, take on a rather pale and unsexy pose in the winter. Artificial sun and makeup are both new and expensive. Besides, after seven days, even opaque makeup can't camouflage the veins and imperfections of a well-worn leg. But the naked look stuck. "After all," says Balle, "all the celebrity magazines showed pictures of

SOME RULES ARE CLEAR: TOES SHOULDN'T HANG OVER THE EDGE OF A SHOE. TOE RINGS ARE NOT A PLUS.

the feet's sole) barely stops perspiration, says Levine, but makes feet look better since fungal damage and peeling is corrected when the excessive perspiration ends. She charges US\$800 to US\$1,000, depending on the size of the foot, while Canadian cosmetic dermatologist Dr.



HAIRLINE: DR. DAVID SCHACHTER

David Schachter has patients buy their botox from a pharmacy for \$450 a vial and charges an injection fee of \$250 per foot.

Open-toed sandals have been staples since Roman times and make a lot of sense in hot summers. They make less sense in air-conditioned offices and shopping malls and even less in North American winters. "I blame Abercrombie & Fitch for the whole bare-leg, bare-foot thing," says Christina Stille, owner of Accusoft, Toronto's first stand-alone history shop that opened 16 years ago.

In 1992, Abercrombie & Fitch, the U.S. purveyor of traditional men's wear, got a new CEO—Mike Jeffries, a maverick about whom very little was known. He named Abercrombie & Fitch into the temple of "cool" with the help of a rebranding campaign that featured the erotic photography of Bruce Weber. The campaign was largely male-oriented, a lot of young men posed with giggled, torso-wearing Abercrombie & Fitch cut-offs and the odd female thrown in for diversity.

What emerged was an Abercrombie & Fitch cult of a sort selling very impractical clothes. Its young misadventure wore a uniform of bare legs and shorted flip-flops all day, every season, spring, summer, autumn—

and accessories early on. "I saw it coming but manufacturers got smart," says Stille. "They created pantyhose with little rubber dots on the sole to wear with sandals so they wouldn't slip off feet. And we have pantyhose that leaves all toes bare and anchors with a shag between the first and second toe. When I went to Europe a number of years ago, I couldn't believe how many women wore fishnets—it's a standard alternative there and it remains my No. 1 seller in the summer time. Still, as soon as the warm weather comes, Canadian women like to take off gloves and pantyhose."

With that new shoe style comes a new need for foot care. But pedicures alone won't combat the scourges of summer toes, hard spurs and the scourge of women and the loss of dead to sandal wearing—blisters.

Women are more vulnerable to blisters than men because of hormonal changes and our thinner bones. A blister is a degenerative change in the bone that pushes the base of the big toe out and warps the toe itself angles inward, often on top of the second toe. Blisters are not caused by shoes—the issue is probably genetic—but they can be aggravated by them, and they become in-

flamed with shoes that rub against them, making every step a long hell. "The best thing to do is choose shoes with an insole high enough that the blisters are covered," say podiatrists, but the new styles have the cleavage and cut out that fit right across the blisters line. Though they are usually more pronounced in middle age, you can sometimes see blisters on younger women. Made!

Nicole Campbell appears to have one, and when asked what she was at herself the last time, one of those beautiful girl does-it-depression answers, she said "my feet."

There is a quick fix for blisters: taping them away, which only requires about 12 days of recuperation, but the only permanent solution is surgery, with screws holding the swollen bone. "I had one patient who had a bunionectomy at the end of August and was in the New York City Marathon at the beginning of November," claims Levine, though most patients need three months before they are back in action.

Match the stars to their feet:



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WITH A THOUSAND WIGGLES in photos, the Queen looks as if she's actually having fun. So do the Abernethys.

As the Queen turns 80, there's a lot of writing about the royals—and little of it's good

BY MARK STEIN

When it comes to royal hooch, a primary research a hundred thousand words. Especially the picture on the back of *Happy & Glorious* shows that Queen in Calicut, Australia, is an Aboriginal in native dress—a naked except for some waist paint and a few strands of moss dangling over her naughty bits. She's in traditional dress, not—light-blue frock with white spots, pearls, brooch, big hat, white gloves. Not to long ago it was the art form of every white middle-class woman in the British Empire, but these days Her Majesty patsy crack soldiers on horse.

The *Assatepes* is one of its finest recent years in this collection by royal photographer Robin Wain. There are plenty of Canadian songs, including the famous pucks duelling in Vancouver, and Happy & Gloria's effendly lines up to the fire of those subjects. The *Quebecois* also don't forget their own as our and it's harnessed as her sister's coffee—and she appears to take more pleasure in the opening of a new wing of Governor House in Regina than most of us would in her situation. My guess is the under the granite, in contrast to her great-grandmother, her reign seems to have gone well as it's come on.

It's the slots that aren't full of pictures that are the problem. In the course of my life, I have had one brief conversation with the Queen, and I haven't a clue what she really thinks about anything. But that's one more conversation with her than most "royal watchers" have had, and they claim to be privy to her innermost thoughts. After the 1999 referendum on the monarchy, Christopher Meehan reported in Britain's *Sunday Times* that "the Queen was 'bored and disappointed' by the strength of republican feeling in Australia." Really? On the night of the referendum, I happened to be dining at Boodles,

Why, you may be wondering, did the Prince's life come to many books? Surely one can find in Columbia Records all the Johnny Mathis Christmas albums for many decades; they could also cover in every year a different offshoot genre like Max Holden's corner than that. In the 1950s, he was a conventionally genteel country cowboy: think of his 1959 TV documentary, *Charles at Home: A Prince for Our Time*. Unfortunately, some change, and by 1961 Mr. Holden's marketing took books like *The Illustrated Charles* and demanding that a former Prince Charles III lay off the golf and sports and concentrate on his duties as a monarch. But with his subject by 1961, he was to his country: a "March 5 Signer's salute." By the turn of the millennium, even the king's new station avoided him enough and Mr. Holden had embraced full-blown republicanism. Perhaps his pendulum is swinging back a bit by now. Given his career's self-identification, by the time the Prince of Wales is crowned,

The alternative to royal watchers is *Inside Princess Elizabeth's government*, the much-misfiled Christie, got the ball rolling with his tell-all volume, revealing that little Lilibet liked to get upon the middle of the night and rearrange her shoes and was wont to shout "too loose!" during apops with Margaret. The osh-in courtiers have softened their field of exposure since those innocent days. Paul Barrett, confidant to the Princess of Wales, reintroduced himself as *The Naked Th*

hyster in a ring room at Buckingham Palace rather than at midnight in an underground parking garage while wearing a hat pulled low over her face. What thanks to Her Majesty found him with her half-nursed stare. Mr. Burrell would go pen another book. In *The Royal Mistress: Expert Advice on Etiquette and Enticement from the Former Butler to Diana, Princess of Wales* (Janet Street-Porter, part-true), the Princess is best-known for bulimic vomiting and Mr. Burrell was subsequently prosecuted for stealing the crockery ("Dinner 16: One place with Prince of Wales room"). He was stealing his superior's not beyond plausibility hype. Arguably

Royal Sens of Womans I'm especially fond, in our over-corporatized culture, of their hilariously subversive attitude to alleged cultural icons: Last year, the Queens found herself in a room full of legendary rock guitarists, and hadn't a clue who they were. Introduced to Tac Clayton, she pointedly inquired, "How you been playing a long time?" Passing on to Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, the monarch asked, "Had you been a musician, too?"

Magallanes: The increasingly desperate Hollywood should sign her to host the Oscar "Ladies and gentlemen, to present the Award for Best Sound Editing in a Documentary Short please welcome George Clooney! Don't tell me you're another one of these actors. *Mr. Clooney!*" ■



Other risks include the risk of needle sticking and other

Palace Court Gag, and in *A Royal Rant*—she gives us a Queen who puns—Oprah, pun-Grandall and pun-parasized C16, speak first before her body's found in a trunk at the airport: "I'm...membered," writes Barrell, "the note the Princess had left me about the Queen: 'I long to hug my mother in law.'" "If only our daily sorrows were as touchingly-fine and happy as yours in the buffet, history might have been very different. Even Her Majesty conceals Barrell's unique intimacy with Dukes, though she fires that, despite being head of state, she's unable to suppress her satire:

"Looking over her half-rimmed spectacles, she said: 'Be careful, Paul. No one has been so close to a member of my family as you have. There are powers at work in this country about which we have no knowledge.' She fixed me with a stare with eyes that underlined her words. 'Do you understand?'"

It's a disappointment to realize that she confides this dark secret to the boy.

her up in the index, under "S" for "Sarah 'Tiger' Ferguson, Duchess of York." It's a perfect example because:

"Royal gossamer and dainties of,
 Self-deprecation of,
 Self-sufficiency and desire for independence of,
 Sliding of,
 Stress of Royal life on,
 Tapped 'phone lines of,
 Tolerant photos of."

The Daughters' previous book was a children's volume called *Ensigns the Little Fish Catcher*. By this stage, the Queen was probably grateful Camilla's agent hadn't got her a six-figure deal to do *Charlie the Chopper* (a new up book).

So skip the word books and stick to the glossy-finish birthday personal covers you'll treasure forever. Looking at these Lantz with-the-laughing-face photos of Robin Nixon reminds me of one gemtly volume I'd be interested to see: *We Are Amused*. Th-

BEST SELLERS
FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

Station _____

LAST WEEK:

- | WEEKENDS ON LIST | | |
|------------------|---|--------|
| 1 | THE BIRTERHOUSE by <i>Al McKay</i> | 1 (17) |
| 2 | SUITE FRANÇOISE by <i>Irene Manikowicz</i> | 13 |
| 3 | THE FURBLES OF IRELAND by <i>Edward Rutherford</i> | 2 (16) |
| 4 | IN THE COMPANY OF THE COLUMBIAN by <i>Sarah Danchi</i> | 4 (15) |
| 5 | SHORY HOUSE by <i>Timothy Taylor</i> | 13 |
| 6 | THE BROOKLYN FOLLIES by <i>Paul Austin</i> | 4 (13) |
| 7 | BLACK SWAN GREEN by <i>David Mitchell</i> | 13 |
| 8 | THE LIGHTHOUSE by <i>P.O. James</i> | 3 (12) |
| 9 | A PERFECT NIGHT TO GO TO CHINA by <i>David Gilman</i> | 7 (12) |
| 10 | HELL by <i>Sharon Kline</i> | 8 (11) |

1. *Journal of Management Education*, 2000, 24(1), 1-10.

- | | |
|--|------|
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By Tim Flannery | \$20 |
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By Karl Polanyi | \$13 |
| SIX WORDS YOU NEVER KNEW
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by Graham Smith | \$15 |
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by Rebecca Goss | \$10 |



FINALLY A BOOK ABOUT... REGIME CHANGE
Former New York Times Latin America correspondent Stephen Kinzer's *Overthrow* (Jan.) shows how knocking off foreign governments has been a prime tool of U.S. policy for over a century, starting with the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893 and continuing on to Saddam's Iraq in 2003. Kinzer notes when the U.S. sets out to overthrow a foreign government, it generally succeeds—while often becoming a target of international condemnation. www.nytimes.com

JAZZ HANDS: TV host Conan O'Brien and actor Nathan Lane suggest led 'ring' the show by going back to the 'Broadway classic'

Breaking the curse of the Ring

'Lord of the Rings' isn't just long and costly. It's also turning Toronto into a bit of a joke.

BY JOHN INTINI • Earlier this month, last night TV host Conan O'Brien—who aimed flings up in Quebec a couple of years back by poking fun at French Canadians—took a segment to Toronto. With actor Nathan Lane on the couch beside him, the natural disenchanted was about about the city's production of *The Lord of the Rings*, based solely on the "stupid" reviews he'd read. Why would anyone, he wondered, want to turn these great books and films into a full-scale stage production? So Lane, a theatre veteran, put on a comfy football wig and jumped out of his seat to demonstrate how he'd "fix" the musical. "They got to go back to the Broadway classic," said Lane, before heading into the ring as Bugsy Siegel's Frank Ziegler—his own variation on the Irving Berlin smash.

Yes, after only a few weeks on stage, the LOTR musical (and its Enya-like sound track) is already a punchline. And O'Brien is still piling on. Since its debut, on March 23, the 1½-hour, two-wishbone-break extravaganza has been pulled by far more serious critics. The New York Times claimed that "no one emerges with head unswayed, eyes unblurred or emotions unaroused," and the *Daily Telegraph* wrote that "you can always solve a problem by throwing money at it"—referring to the show's \$16 million price tag, which, together with the \$1 million a week required to keep it going, makes it the most expensive stage production of all time.

Blogger, too, are heading up on Frodo and the "giant." *The Lord of the Rings* is deep and wonderful for a reason," says one. "Its themes are too weighty to be piling on and piling on Money Python." Even the best only has some under words. "Hope it comes"

Shaped Toronto is a god damn song hole. Even their backyard team stands this year," wrote one especially racy Internet scribble.

Of course, not all productions that get crushed are destined to fail—Jettie Christ Superstar, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Grease*, *Hairs* and *Mousetrap* were all panned by many critics before enjoying huge success with the masses. And LOTR may yet join this distinguished list. Advanced ticket sales to date have topped \$1 million. Toronto's 2,000-seat Princess of Wales theatre has been sold out or close to capacity for every show since opening night (though that's thanks in large part to the show's built-in audience—there are 42,000 *Moviefest* season-ticket subscribers who have LOTR tickets as part of their package). Toronto will help keep the phone pretty packed during the summer, too, come fall, David Mirvish and his fellow producers will have to hope for an avalanche of repeat customers willing to shell out top dollar once again—tickets start at \$135—to make the experience. Or they'll have to find new ways of enticing people who realistically don't spend their evenings or weekends at the theatre.

Research commissioned by Mirvish Productions indicates that the audience who

showed up during the seven weeks of previews consisted of a higher percentage of people who don't normally frequent musicals. The surveys were also meant as a way to identify what wasn't working—suggesting that the show was—and perhaps still is—a work in progress. The biggest complaint: the story lacked clarity. Ganda, played by Canadian breast cancer, was not dynamic enough in the role of the wise wizard, and the production was very too long. Clearly, some of those critiques were not acted on. During the intermission of one show in opening performance last week, a stranger in the audience could be overheard telling her family that she had fallen asleep a couple of times during the first act. Her dad

'I HOPE IT CRATERS,' WROTE ONE INTERNET SCRIBE. 'STUPID TORONTO IS A SNOW HOLE. EVEN THEIR HOCKEY TEAM STINKS.'

laughed, saying he, too, had dozed off during "the boring parts."

If LOTR doesn't turn into a respectable stage success before moving to London next year, some say it could have a SARS-like effect on Toronto's theatre business. But no matter how desperate LOTR producers get for the perfect fix, let's hope they completely ignore Conan O'Brien's other parting shot to fix the production—a landscape-sounding Gollum who roars it all off for the grand finale. Nobody wants to see that. ■



PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK

QUAKE BALLET

San Francisco-based ballerina Mariel Haffner took to the stage last week in a gaudy mask, peering out from piles of debris. But her commemoration of the centennial of San Francisco's earthquake was more than historical reference. She danced to a variety of thunderous sounds electronically interpreted from seismic data gathered in real time from the Bay Area's Hayward Fault, giving new meaning to the term "understanding."

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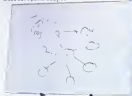
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LABADIE and his chamber orchestra, Les Violons du Roy. They play 18th-century music with baroque bows on modern instruments.

Bernard Labadie, super-conductor

A Quebecer is disproving the theory Canada doesn't produce great orchestra leaders

BY STEPHEN GERA • Canada has historically spawned great singers. One thinks

immediately of such hallowed names as Jon Vickers and Margaret Furlong, today there are Ben Heggyer, Isobel Boydellman and others. But the country has produced far fewer important conductors. Perhaps no conductor born in Canada has attained more career prominence outside his country than Bernard Labadie, 46, who was born in Québec City. He has already guest-conducted such august bodies as the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra and the San Francisco, Atlanta and St. Louis symphony orchestras, in nearly baroque repertoire. He has also mounted the podium at the Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival and the Santa Fe Opera.

Striding lightly onto the stage of Montreal's Salle Châteaue Champagne recently, Labadie had reason to look proud. He and his Québec City chamber orchestra, Les Violons du Roy, had just completed a two-week U.S. tour that took them from Los Angeles's Walt Disney Concert Hall to their debut at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall. "Wow, we're California here," then for a Bay Area audience strayed in early music tradition, and accustomed to hearing top-quality playing from our own midsize baroque orchestras, these performances were thrilling.

Next season, Labadie debuts with the New York Philharmonic, which he is already booked to conduct again the following season. Not bad for a musician who formed Les Violons du Roy during his studies years at McGill University because he needed an orchestra to accompany the choir he had already founded: Les Choeurs de Québec. (Les Violons, which plays 18th-century music with baroque bows

on modern string instruments, often recruits from the renowned string orchestras of the court of France's Louis XIV.) To date, Labadie and Les Violons have performed more than 100 times throughout Europe and the U.S. "I am largely self-taught, but I had an instrument," Labadie reflected in *Place des Arts* a morning after the Montreal concert, and just before a rehearsal with L'Opéra de Montréal, for which he also serves as artistic and music director. That "instrument" was Les Violons du Roy. "We learned a lot together. They were kind enough to allow me to make all my mistakes."

Rehearsing a chamber orchestra couldn't have been easy back then, and the challenges continue. Today, because of the relatively modest size of the home market in Québec City, "we cannot offer our people a full season of work," Labadie observes. "So we're accustomed to touring, and therefore we're accustomed to conducting because if you do alone all evening you have to be every bit as good as the other groups that do that. Whatever my musicians want, and God knows they don't care a bit, when you show up at Carnegie Hall you have to be for the goods. They can't write in the program's please excuse the quality because the musicians are paid one third of what the musicians you heard yesterday are paid. It's a great source of motivation."

Performances by Les Violons are characterized by edge, by the seat-jamming, rhythmic zest and an arresting range of instrumental nuance, using those baroque period bows that make music sharp and brilliant. Fueled by Labadie's own prodigious energy, and vivid ideas about period performance practice, the youthful ensemble has become something of a sensation. It recently began to record for Virgin Classics, a division of EMI, with the first CD due out in September. Their 12 CDs are the Donnas label—two of which won Juno Awards—are now in limbo after the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2009. They have also recorded for the Québec label, ATMA Classique.

That recent Montreal concert had at least one heart-stopping moment. In the midst of an aria by Gluck, a cellist's string cut from the audience. Conductor Magdalene Kuhnke looked in real-time, freezing her posture, while Labadie and the orchestra instinctively followed suit as the audience held its collective breath. When the phone finally stopped ringing, the performance resumed as if a celestial phone button had been released. It was a moment no one present is likely to forget. Ever ready, Labadie hopes to make more work in Europe, where he has already conducted at the Salzburg Festival. Most important, he looks forward to spending next year of Les Violons' vacation home in Québec City, the Grand Théâtre. "I count my blessings. There's no doubt I'm doing what I love, I think it shows."



THE DIXIE CHICKS...HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

And now in the world are the words that I said / And somebody say over the edge / That they'll write me a letter / Sayin' that I better shut up and stop / Or my life will be over / I'm not ready to make nice / I'm not ready to back down / I'm still mad as hell and I don't have time to go around and round and round from not ready to make nice, a mention for the lawyers and death threats after Natalie Maines criticized George W. Bush in 2004.



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An Oxford theologian and friend of Jacko hits the road to fix broken homes across America



IMMIGRATION REFORM
 "Arnold Schwarzenegger is calling for reform. He wants to get the country—and what were illegal immigrants—back to the law, and banning churches if you feed them."

Despite her credentials, religion doesn't play into Shorofsky's theosophical approach, except in the broadest sense: "I believe that judgment holds life-affirming truths that are not directly related to ritual," he says. Even when he was rabbi at Oxford University, Shorofsky held his office as a rabbi, not as a position in the Jewish community. In 1996, he was elected to the UChicago Society, which has since become the university's second-largest club, hosting some of the world's greatest thinkers, including the Wiesel, Hughes Haskins and Benjamin Netanyahu. Shorofsky was criticized by graduates for encouraging new Jews to join. Ultimately, he decided to leave "the new wave of students" toward books of a more popular nature. "At the end of the day, I think, 'I don't see any way to be a great rabbi,'" he says. "I want to be a great teacher."

On the other hand, Shorofsky's rabbinical TV host with broken families to fix on the news end.

What were illegal immigrants protesting? "Says to me, no sense changes to the law, like building a 300-mile fence along the border and banning them from going at all food. It's like this puzzle—if you feed them, they'll never leave." —Stephen Colbert

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RINELLA's food went well, though the bear's ear sausages were tough, and the rib delivery pudding bore a faint taste of urine

Try the stingray, with the bear loin

A hunter-gatherer aims to woo his vegetarian girlfriend with a carnivore's extravaganza

BY BRIAN BETHUNE • A few pages into his beguiling book, *The Scavenger's Guide to Human Cuisine*, Steven Rinella makes a startling remark about something obvious that can be noticed at any time: Except Rinella, that is. The 33-year-old American is a man born out of time, a modern-day hunter-gatherer. He shoots animals all right, but he's also happily collecting edible weeds. Rinella is just a guy who likes to acquire his own food, the more exotic the better. And when he first encountered Le Gault's Cuisine, Auguste EscOFFIER's bible of haute cuisine, man his mind racing. What Rinella realized, while flying from his Montana home to Michigan to pick up a seven-billion-gallon shipping crate, was that ideas about food have changed so much since EscOFFIER's 1900 classic on flights like this year.

To his amazement, the haute culture of EscOFFIER's time is all appetite and no refinement. We don't see modern rarities anymore, and we certainly don't advise cooks to look for ingredients that are "very fleshy and full of life," or provide detailed instructions for arranging their boards. But that's why EscOFFIER appealed to Rinella: He wanted the Frenchman to be living "in such a cool time in history, when it was fashionable—rather than being rich and repulsive—to eat all this bizarre stuff."

Rinella decided to prepare—in every sense, from killing to cooking—a 45-course EscOFFIER meal, to be served over three days to his friends and helpers. It would be a celebration of exotic food and hard-core effort. And it came with a not-to-be-forgotten agenda: If this didn't woo his vegetarian girlfriend, Dana, over to the meaty Dark Side, and he would... (Preliminary steps on that front arrived badly: after Rinella began cooking the

Michigan rabbit, his apartment smelled "like a hotbed Loch Ness monster—Dana walked in, covered her mouth, and 'Oh, My God, God.' And walked back out.")

But perseverance is a hunter's virtue, and Rinella was undaunted by obstacles. What would the master have made of North American substitutes for the European species he had used? To find out, Rinella persuaded EscOFFIER's biographer and found an enthusiastic improviser. In the waning days of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, while EscOFFIER, a chef, was busy cooking French officers' own horses for them, the starving citizens of Paris made do with even less. On Christmas Day, the Café Volcan, having scrounged what it could from city streets and a local zoo, printed in flannel menus: bear, donkey, kangaroo and wolf steaks, house cat garnished with raisins, and the menu of two elephants named Caesar and Peltus. EscOFFIER kept a copy, and during the food shortages of the Great War, used it to urge his fellow chefs to improvise. Evidently, Rinella's gastronomy is right—"Who else would EscOFFIER be doing going to allow considerable latitude

Good thing, too. Although Rinella managed to shoot a wild bear in northern California, he picked his bladder with his cleaver while dressing it, making it useless to hold the duck he planned to cook. (Who

knew that, as EscOFFIER's taste, chefs kept roasting low loins drying out by stuffing them into marinated bladders?) No matter, Rinella decided, half a duck in an antique bladder would do just as well. There were other ingenious substitutions: loins from Canada game instead of real first gys (Rinella has moral objections to force-feeding), an Atlantic stingray, scuttled ashore in Florida before a tourist crowd, for a shernakob steaks.

In the end, it all came together. Sure of Rinella's broken tooth on his gritty blue trousers, the bear's ear sausage passed kippers out to kralis and fork, the elk and emelope kidney pudding bore a faint taste of urine that most would think and delicious starlings stuffed inside porcupine stons, black bear loin with sauerkraut, turtle soup as "delegant and grandiose" it seemed like something a noble king would have had in." Le Gault, the author concludes, is a lesson in biodiversity and the beauty of small differences.

As for the course of *carnivorous romance*, it never shines brightly, but it does still rain. Dana took part in the hunt, at least on the film night, until—some time between the rabbit gild (with saved Maple Bear fat) and the mountain goat succumbed pre—the became solo city life. There no doubt, Rinella gave up all hope of converting her. "Not, this was it," he says over the phone. "Every night I wake two dreams, something like California rolls for them, and an elk burger for me, or maybe some moose leg." Transient he loves ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL... COOKING WITH TWINKINS
Who couldn't go for Twinkies Mix, or Chicken/Raspberry Twinkies Salad? The U.S. maker of the snack cake has sponsored a book of Twinkie-based recipes it withdrew from the public. New York's Nolan Nutterly offered Twinkies Potato-Ranchitos Foster which he calls an "avant-garde take on the most old-school dessert around," while Sonja Brand of Kansas City with the well-loved Pumpkin Twinkie Bread Pudding an "epitome of comfort."

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WAKE UP! Vargo and Regan handle details for making mid-life motherhood more easy. Their book is a polished primer on infertility

This recipe needs eggs—fresh ones

If you want a baby, age matters. So does the right doctor. Oh, and you need to have sex.

BY JULIA MCNEILL • Dreaming about having a baby? The authors of *A Few Good Eggs* have a message for you. Actually, they have several, and you may find yourself wishing they'll arrive soon. "Age really does matter if you want to get pregnant. So if you look 25 but are really 38, you're operating with 18-year-old eggs, not to mention a 38-year-old uterus and Fallopian tubes that may have more scars on them than antique furniture."

As then Julie Vargo and Marissa Regan—the "Two Chicks" who *Don't Get Overcome* the beauty of infertility—have been through the fertility mill. Vargo, a writer and fashion editor, was 36 when she tried to get pregnant for the first time and couldn't. "Suddenly I'm wondering science experiment," she writes. "I spent more time at the fertility clinic than I did at work."

Regan, Vargo's friend and owner of a fertility agency, had her first child at 33, but when she tried again at 37, she was shocked to find she suffered from "secondary infertility, the inability to carry a child to term when you already have one child."

Both Vargo and Regan are driven career women and, if anything else, this book is intended as a wake-up call to their peers. "Super Women needs to hang up her cape for a while and focus on family concerns that don't last," they write. The statistics don't change, not even for mid-life ovarian pop stars. Vargo and Regan refer to Mid-ones and lambaste other countless celebrities for not sharing the truth about infertility and for making and life motherhood issues so effortless. "We don't want to hear another girlfriend say, 'Well, you know, I read in the paper that [fill in the blank with name of famous celeb] had her first baby at 45, so there's no rush. If older celebs would cop to fertility issues

and/or donor eggs, other women would find more comfortable doing it as well."

Fertility problems can be caused by a myriad of factors. Vargos and Regan tell women to look carefully for signs. If you're aware of your cycle—heavy flow, light flow, no flow, the quiver—tell your doctor. It may speed a diagnosis. "The problem could be medical and treatable. On the other hand, 'don't and self sabotage are often the biggest challenges to overcome.'" Here are signs it's time to deal with the real, according to the authors:

1. You won't give up your gym membership and 15 per cent body fat ratio
2. Breakfast in three cups of black coffee, lunch is a diet pop and bag of chips
3. You've been on the pill for 18 years and wonder if it's time to get off (it is)
4. You haven't met Mr. Right yet
5. You tell everyone you want a child but secretly a change in lifestyle scares you, so you keep putting it off

As simple as it sounds, Vargo and Regan also don't think women are having enough sex. They write, "It's not some couples who should be bleeding like leeches are not having much sex. Too tired. Too stressed. Working too late. And there are the ones without kids!" Their point? "Sex is fun and sex is necessary if you want to get pregnant."

If you already suspect a fertility problem,

beating a gynecologist can treat it, they write, "a major oops and a huge waste of precious time." Find a good reproductive endocrinologist, they say, and when calling fertility clinics, ask questions. A good clinic is open weekends and willing to stay open late, if that's what works best for your body. It keeps plenty of tissues. It is discreet and understanding when accepting "deposits" from your partner, and it updates the sexy magazines in the "decent rooms."

When your partner is concerned, advising him but "don't freak if you end up doing all the work," the book says. It reminds wives:

1. He's going through it, too
2. He's a guy
3. He doesn't really get it
4. Here's the really unfair part, they say: A woman will undergo a "million tests" while the man has two or three. "Get used to it," they write. Vargo and Regan note that "half of all marriages end in divorce, and going through infertility doesn't help this. The whole concept of 'overcoming' things." They suggest a lot of ways to keep your marriage together.
1. Have sex when it doesn't fit the fertility calendar
2. Force yourself to have a conversation that doesn't revolve around fertility treatments
3. Hold hands
4. Pick your battles
5. Have sex when you don't really want to but he does

MOST IMPROVED: GORDON PINSETT

At 35, he's had a long career in event entertainment such as the TV series *A Guy to Love* and *Dur Dur Dur*. Next week, Pinsett reinvents himself as something muncher. The Newfoundland is judging the "Miss Greenhouse Pageant," a beauty contest held as part of an East Coast cultural fest. Says organizer Cheryl Snook, "Mr. Pinsett brings the kind of multicultural diversity to a contest that involves bikini-clad women displaying their..."



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COMMENT

Out! Out! Damned Barbie doll!



SCOTT PEACOCK

Upon presenting a child with a new toy, today's savvy parent will extensively teach for a pair of scissors to cut through the hard plastic clunkbell and twist the wires to which the item is packaged. Should the scissors fail to get the job done, out comes the knife. Then, the pliers, a blowtorch and the jaws of life. Finally, today's savvy parent, by now sweating profusely and mentally unbalanced, reaches for a back-of-the-head before collapsing. You see this ritual, Fisher-Price?

And it's not just toys. These days, you don't so much happen a product as you *unzip* it. You unzip a cordless phone from captivity. You free a baume-et-mercier watch. You release Barbie from her white bonds (unless, you know, your kid happens to go in for the kinky stuff). My four-year-old boy secured a use of army soldiers for his birthday. He wanted to play with them right away. I sat, pulled, yanked, tore, twisted, yanked and, resorting to a minor blade, sliced. Finally, I tossed the soldiers high in the air and, *smash!* heeked over as my son—an which point I realized he was now a grown man and wanted the car keys. Enjoy the peace? Gosh, just a *moment* before you go—I need to get this new digital camera out of its plastic case.

A new study estimates that 60,000 people each year in Britain alone are injured trying to gain access to new consumer products. That means about 10,000 people in Canada meet the same fate, and I'm three of those. First, I triggered my thumb-opening an X-Men action figure. Second, I brained my thigh when I yanked it with a screwdriver that slipped while prying a new energy light bulb from its plastic prison, and third, there's what's come to be known as The Epson Incident.

It began when I came home with a new replacement ink cartridges in my printer. There were four cartridges in all, and they came in one "convenient" plastic package. The package was a "consumer" that I couldn't open it, so I grabbed a pair of scissors. With great effort and profanity, I managed to breach the clunkbell coating, which gave

me a sense of tremendous accomplishment and, when I made it my hand slid up against the cut plastic, a laceration.

Eventually I got through the outer plastic package. I was inside the printer. Moving swiftly, I ripped open the inner cardboard package. Then I cut through the cardboard package inside the cardboard package. Then I broke for lunch and a nap. Refreshed, I set about strategizing as to how best to cut through the thicker plastic inside the cardboard inside the outer cardboard that was inside the thicker plastic. It was roughly at this point that I learned things over so the price. The power of Christ compels you to open the bloody hell up already!

Unzip rage has become such an epidemic that Consumer Reports recently presented "awards" to the products that come in the most impenetrable packaging. The Unzip digital cordless phone, tied to cardboard in case to 10 plastic for some reason, took more than nine minutes to liberate. Meanwhile, American Idol Barbie remained captive for 15 minutes and 10 seconds, her release reportedly involved "unzipping" wires, snapping rubber bands, snapping tape, slicing thick plastic manacles off her arms and torso, cutting off a tab embedded in her head and carefully ripping a series of stitches securing her torso to a plastic strap on the back of the box." (To be fair, that's exactly how they prepare real-life American Idol contestants.)

Why corporations package things this way is a little inside a mystery wrapped in an impenetrable plastic that's covered in my blood and tears. Consumer Reports says it's a reflection of the fact that plastic is now cheaper than cardboard. Others suggest it's because factory workers are increasingly resistant to access in favour of laziness.

Personally, I think it has everything to do with global domination. After all, most toys and consumer products are made in China. China is a new power bent on surpassing the United States as the world's largest economy. And what better way to do that than to sabotage North American productivity while somewhere early sipping from its (Chinese) will to live?

The time has come to fight back. You want our markets, China? You want our borders? Here, enjoy this high quality two-by-four of genuine Canadian cedar! You can use it to help build a nice house—in so far as you figure out how to connect it to the clunkbell, hard plastic clunkbell packaging.

You may just want to go ahead and plant some saplings instead. It'll be quicker. M

Scott Peacock can be reached at stefanek@sympatico.ca

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Mercedes road bike, organic drive-throughs and Jennifer Aniston in our compendium of things that make life worth living

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If you live in Toronto you've got to love these railway tunnels. And if you live elsewhere, don't you wish they made them for your railway stops or main drags? Designed by Shapier Associates and available

SEEMINGLY CANADIAN

Griffiths has been compared to Broken Social Scene, the Deans, the Arcade Fire and Rufus Wainwright—all good Canuck acts. So even though that four-prince is based in Britain, they share this country's current fascination with pretty orchestral pop. The band is sweeping through Toronto and Montreal in May, and their latest CD, *From the Cliffs*, is on the pre-release phase. *Latchum* **C**

**YOU DON'T KNOW
FROM PSYCHOTIC**

Sean Wilentz's marauding, *Diner* (1997), lugs his society-page list of Sars, globe-trotting with moon and helicopter rides to the roadside like *John*—except in reverse: you go to comfort a lulu with her, and *John*'s there to tell you,

TAKE THIS WEDDING RING AND MELT IT

your marriage is over—what are you going to do with that wedding band? Send it to Goddess and they'll turn it into a personalized ball chain you can put on a keychain or wear around your neck. goddess.com

18 INCHES OF GRUNGE

Nothing is going to bother true Nirvana fans more than this Kurt Cobain action figure. But hey, would it ever be fun to put it on a shelf next to the 'N Sync dolls and let them battle it out? (www.abc.com)

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The Zip HydrosZip gives you two choices: filtered boiling or filtered chilled. It makes iced tea and lemonade a thing of the past. www.ziphydrating.com

RACHEL'S NEW FRIENDS

In *Friends with Money*, Jennifer Aniston is a mad while all her pals are gossamer. And no one's all that happy—except, well, more who appreciate a well-acted and on-life writer's fun.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

It's the Mercedes of bikes. Literally. The carbon-framed motor weighs in like a supermodel—and looks as good



HAIR-RAISING

Children don't get to do all the fun things in life like vote, drive or cut hair. But come the month of May, Toronto theatre company *Nationalism Diving Belles* presents *Haircuts by Children*, giving youth editors, "directors" and trust. See this performance as part of a number of city beauty salons or during the Mills International Children's Festival of the Arts. (barboursfranchise.com/naib/)

WHAT HAPPENS IN AN EMPTY ROOM?

Joyce Cohen, esteemed Canadian photographer (by way of Wisconsin), has released *Coverings*, featuring a selection of nearly 200 black-and-white photographs that she's shot since 1971, but never exhibited. Her lens is zero: public places and institutions—hospitals, stores, classrooms, military facilities, sex clubs and parking. (joyce-cohen.com)

KEEPING OFF THE McCALORIES

fishbowl or to let food live better. Free and water do! Hitting opened O'Natural Maine and Massachusetts—world's first organic fast fish chain. Yes, there's no food yeg takes—just the world's best and antibiotic-free beef, too. (onatural.com)

MONTREAL DANCES INTO OTTAWA

Widely loved Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal brings *The Solus Show* to the National Arts Centre May 2.

THE BEST TV PILOT THAT NEVER MADE IT TO AIR

Hot Vices and Jack's new on-airdate coincide with a telly show with big star power directed by Ben Stiller and starring Jack Black as an astronaut in trouble with the law and Owen Wilson as the sarcastic voice of Jack's talking cat on TV.





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